



The lure of the cults

Joanna Pitman learns how the new religions could pose a real threat to industry, page 16



Milan catwalk

Cocktail dresses fizzing night and day, page 17



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20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,209

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8 1995



Pools of water and thick mud made yesterday's annual University rugby league match at Richmond more like a dress rehearsal for the Boat Race. Cambridge won 16-8. Page 42

Climbers missing as snow hits North

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

FIVE climbers were missing in blizzard conditions on Scotland's hills last night as heavy snow caused chaos on the roads and cut off parts of the North. Two separate rescue attempts to find the climbers had to be called off last night because of the worsening weather.

Heavy rain, sleet and snow also hit Wales and the West before it began moving eastwards yesterday afternoon, flooding some parts of the M25 and making driving hazardous on all motorways.

Severe blizzards and heavy snow in Cumbria left 3,000 homes in Cleator Moor and Egremont without power for six hours after cables were brought down. The heavy snow blocked roads in many parts of the country and forecasters warned that more is on the way today.

In the Lake District Kirkstone and Honister passes were closed for another day because of snow. Thousands of schoolchildren

had an unexpected day off as schools in Carlisle, Penrith, Conistown, Ulverston and Barrow were closed.

The London Weather Centre said last night that the rain and sleet coming from the west would die out over the east today, though it would still feel bitterly cold. The North is expected to have more snow showers.

Over 70 rescuers from the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team, RAF Leuchars and RAF Kinloss, with 12 sniffer dogs and an RAF helicopter, were involved in the search for the missing climbers. Braemar mountain rescue team also carried out a search of the southern Cairngorms as the hunt widened.

The second search was for three climbers missing in Glencoe since around 2.30pm yesterday. The search for the men, who had been climbing on Buachaile Eive Mor, will begin again at first light.

Forecast, page 24

Ministers accused of misleading investors

Power shares hit by threat to prices

By Philip Webster and Eric Reguly

THE Government was plunged into embarrassment over its latest privatisation last night as ministers were accused of misleading one million private investors who bought shares in PowerGen and National Power.

The charges were levelled after ministers admitted they had been aware when the State sold its remaining stake in the electricity generating industries last week, raising £4 billion, that the industry's regulator was considering tough controls on prices charged by the regional power companies.

Shares prices immediately tumbled after Professor Stephen Lintch, the regulator, announced that he was planning a fresh clampdown. Mounting consumer and political pressure have forced him to announce his second review within a year.

While the prospect of cheap electricity was welcomed by consumer organisations and MPs, the City and new shareholders were furious.

The announcement caused turmoil within the electricity industry. Shares of all 12



The regulators are ministers in all but name... We are almost back to the "nudges and winks" of old-style nationalisation

Simon Jenkins on power's new brokers, page 18

regional electricity companies fell by 10-15 per cent and Northern Electricity, the object of a hostile, £1.23-billion takeover bid from Trafalgar House, was no exception. It shares dropped 15 per cent, to 897p, despite Trafalgar's £11 cash offer. Shares of National Power and PowerGen, the two electricity generators, also declined. There were fears last night that tighter price controls may kill off the planned flotation of the National Grid, the electricity-transmission system owned by the electricity companies.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade,

faces fierce questioning in the Commons today. John Cunningham, his Labour Shadow, said last night that Professor Lintch's intention should have been disclosed in the prospectus. If private individuals had acted as the Government had they would have been guilty of insider trading.

The look at pricing is understood to follow the furore that surrounded Northern Electricity's action in finding £600 million to give back to shareholders to fight off Trafalgar House. Dr Cunningham said the regulator had realised that the regime was far too lax.

Last summer, after months

of consultations with the industry, Professor Lintch imposed price reductions that came into effect next month. The five-year price cap will save customers in England and Wales about £2.5 billion.

He said it was "relevant to take into account what appears to be widespread public concern about whether the price control proposals are sufficiently demanding on the regional electricity companies, and whether they represent an appropriate balance between the interests of the customers and shareholders". He wanted to examine whether "shareholders have been favoured at the expense of customers".

Tony Blair told John Major in the Commons that the likelihood of new electricity price controls meant there should be an overhaul of the regulatory price system for all public utilities. A review would ensure that the "same abuses" were not happening elsewhere. But the Prime Minister insisted that they showed the system was working.

Conservative MPs were uneasy. Tim Yeo, the former minister, said: "This shows an absence of commonsense on the part of the regulator. There should be a quarantine period in which the regulator does not make price-sensitive announcements."

Downing Street officials last night dismissed allegations that the Government had sold the power industry shares on a false prospectus. They insisted that the regulator was independent of the Government and did not act at its behest. He made his own decisions on reviewing pricing structures. Suggestions that one million investors had been "conned" were "hugely exaggerated".

Continued on page 2, col 3

Peter Riddell, page 9
Shares slump, page 25



Giordano: top salaries 'shrouded in mystery'

Gas chief backs cap on executive salaries

By Philip Bassett and Arthur Leathley

THE chairman of British Gas admitted last night that new legislation may be necessary to cap salaries of senior executives in privatised companies.

The admission by Richard Giordano is the first by a senior executive from the privatised utilities, and endorses John Major's statement last week on such new legislation.

Mr Giordano's backing will be interpreted as an attempt to defuse the row over top pay, especially the 75 per cent rise for Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas.

His statement came at the end of a tough 100 minutes of evidence to the House of Commons' all-party Employment Select Committee. In the same session, Mr Brown also admitted to MPs he had not previously disclosed to the committee full details of his incentive scheme and share options. But he insisted he had not intended to mislead the Commons.

Mr Giordano said that the pay of company directors was "shrouded in mystery". He said the level of disclosure of information was "appalling".

Continued on page 2, col 1

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Part-time directors to be excluded from share deals

By Arthur Leathley
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke took the Government's first action to curb boardroom excesses yesterday by telling part-time directors of all listed companies that the right to join share option schemes will not be extended to them.

The Chancellor backed up the Prime Minister's condemnation of "distasteful" pay awards by insisting that a scheme allowing part-time staff to buy share options will not be extended to directors working fewer than 25 hours a week.

Mr Major voiced his concern last week over pay rises awarded to some directors of privatised utilities and said that legislation might be introduced to curb excessive rises.

Growing public criticism about the high level of boardroom pay has prompted Treasury ministers to back away from the plan to allow hundreds of part-time directors to benefit. Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announced that opposition to the plan from large City investors had forced the Government to exclude part-timers.

Senior City figures, including Sir Richard Greenbury, who is heading a CBI investigation into top directors' pay, told the Government that allowing non-executive directors to buy share options would reduce their independence, particularly in setting pay rates for full-time directors.

Andrew Smith, Shadow Treasury Chief Secretary, said that after the Government's

"caving in", ministers should take "decisive action to end the abuse of executive share option schemes across the privatised utilities."

Dozens of non-executive directors of regional electricity, water and gas companies, as well as many hundreds of part-time directors of private companies, stood to make substantial financial gains under the proposals. The Government made the changes following a House of Lords ruling last year, bringing part-time workers into line with full-time staff.

Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary, will table a new clause to the Finance Bill to stop directors working fewer than 25 hours a week benefiting from share options schemes, which will be confined to non-directors.

Wellcome 'yes' to Glaxo offer

Glaxo is set to pull off the biggest takeover in British corporate history after directors of Wellcome accepted its £9 billion offer almost at the last minute. The deal will create the largest pharmaceutical company in the world.

Glaxo's 102p offer closes later today and if successful it expects to pay a further £500 million to Wellcome's directors and staff who exercise their options over Wellcome shares. Page 25

Pakistan cricket captain sacked

Salim Malik, the Pakistan cricket captain accused of offering bribes to two Australian players to lose a Test, was sacked yesterday. The team manager, Intikhab Alam, was also dismissed, though the reason was not clear. Page 48

Barclays ballot

Barclays Bank's 32,000 workers are to be balloted on strike action after rejecting a 2.75 per cent pay offer as the bank disclosed soaring profits, up 181 per cent to £1.86 billion last year. Pages 25, 27

SOUTH KOREA

Focus on South Korea, an economic tiger burning bright
12-page special section

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Spain 14.00;
Sweden 14.00;
Switzerland 14.00;
USA \$12.50; Tunisia 14.00; USA \$12.50.



Pound falls to DM2.25

TURMOIL gripping world currency markets continued yesterday as money continued to flood away from the dollar, and the pound fell to a new low against the mark.

Sterling's fall to DM2.25 and its renewed weakness against other currencies strengthened the case for another rate increase to keep the lid on inflation. The slide came before today's regular monthly meeting between Edie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, who will review interest

rates. A weaker pound makes imports dearer, but analysts said the pound was not yet enough of a worry to swing the argument toward another rate rise above 6.75 per cent.

Europe's monetary committee put off today's meeting on moves to a single currency because of the European currency turbulence. There were new record lows against the peseta, the escudo and the Swedish crown. The dollar hit all-time lows against the yen and the mark. Page 25

Anthony Harris, page 29

Overweight? It's all in the mind, scientists say

By Jeremy Laurence
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FAT people are born, not made, and those who diet to lose weight are by and large doomed to fail, American researchers claim.

Obesity is not caused by overeating but by the inefficient use of calories, so that accusing the overweight of gluttony is both unscientific and unhelpful, they say. The scientists, at Rockefeller University in New York, studied a group of 18 obese patients and 23 of

normal weight before concluding that fatness is governed by a regulator in the brain that controls the amount of fat on the body just as a thermostat controls temperature.

They say that when adipose tissue is lost or gained, the regulator, dubbed an "adipostat", adjusts the body's output of energy until weight returns to its pre-set level. This setting varies widely in different people, which accounts for humanity's wide variety of body shapes and weights. It also means that dieters face an uphill

struggle to maintain a weight lower than that set by their adipostats.

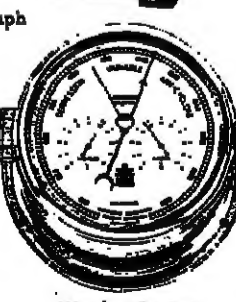
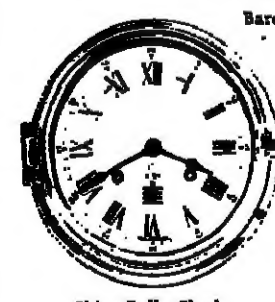
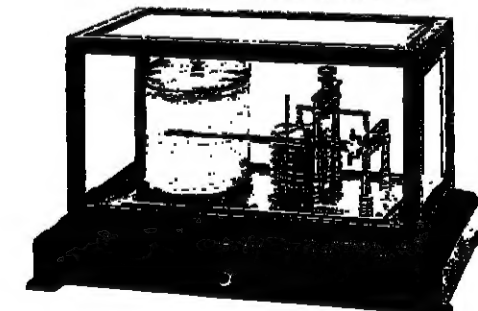
Dr Rudolph Liebel and his colleagues at the university encouraged their patients to eat as much as they could until they had gained 10 per cent in weight. They were then fed a controlled diet until their weight had fallen to 10 per cent below its starting point. At each weight the amount of energy they used when resting or digesting food was measured.

The researchers' findings, reported in the New England Journal of

Medicine, show that when weight increased, the body's natural energy expenditure also increased to use up the extra calories, and vice versa. These changes are beyond individual control.

Simon Ford, general manager of the Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness clubs, said: "Some [of our clients] do fall by the wayside when they reach their target weight... But there are other reasons for going to the clubs. Many treat it as a social outing and like to keep themselves toned up at the same sort of weight."

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Labour gives pledge to end prison privatisation

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour Party last night pledged to end the privatisation of the Prison Service and return privately run jails to the public sector.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, promised that jails that are privately run would be brought under proper public control during the lifetime of the next Labour government.

He told a meeting in central London that he regarded the privatisation of the prison service as morally repugnant. "It is not appropriate for people to profit out of incarceration. This is surely one area where a 'free market' certainly does not exist."

Making Labour's only firm commitment to renationalise a sector privatised by the Conservatives, Mr Straw said that Labour would honour the existing contracts awarded to private sector companies but would not renew them. "At the expiry of their contracts a Labour government will bring these prisons into proper public control and run them directly as public services," he said.

Mr Straw said the Government's programme of market testing prisons and privatisation had demoralised the Prison Service in England and Wales.

It had also diverted officials' energy and ministerial concentration from the real problems of the prison system. "A substantial proportion of management time had, in the months prior to the incidents at Humberstone prison in North Humberside, where there were two nights of rioting in January, been directed towards a response to the establishment's inclusion in the market-testing procedure."

"This caused uncertainty among staff and prisoners about the future of the establishment and adversely affected staff morale," he told the annual meeting of the Bournes Trust, a charity working with prisoners and ex-prisoners.

Mr Straw's pronouncement may also have the effect of discouraging private sector firms from tendering for future projects if they judge that Labour is likely to form the next government. The private sector has pressed for a rapid expansion of prison privatisation, arguing that it will be economic for them only if they can manage more than a handful of prisons.

Four prisons are currently managed by the private sector and Labour sources said last night that returning them to the public sector would not cost vast amounts of cash as the party intended to let the firms complete their contractual arrangements. The first contracts up for renewal are at the Wolds remand jail on Humberside and Blakenhurst jail near Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, in 1997.

The Labour Party indicated that it was working on proposals to end private sector involvement in court escort work.



Professor Stephen Littlechild signalled a new crackdown on prices yesterday

Price threat hits power shares

Continued from page 1 and "silly". But Dr Cunningham declared that the Government should have disclosed what they knew — that Mr Littlechild was considering a new price crackdown. "The Government has conned share buyers in PowerGen and National Power. The Government must have been aware of what was going on in the Office. They went ahead with their sale, in the knowledge that Professor Littlechild would do what he has done."

Confirmation that the Government was aware of a price

clump was given yesterday on *The World at One* by Professor Littlechild and Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister.

Professor Littlechild said it was coincidence that his decision had come shortly after the sale. "The Government was aware I was considering this, but it's not for me to say at what time or in what detail I entered into discussions with the Government. My decision was only made yesterday."

Asked if he had been aware of what the regulator was considering, Mr Eggar said: "There were a number of

discussions that had taken place going back over a number of months with the Office (Office of Electricity Regulation), but what really matters is the actual decision, which was communicated to us yesterday afternoon."

Electricity chiefs were stunned. Bryan Townsend, Chairman of Midlands Electricity, said the regulator has "removed all confidence" in the regulatory regime and "replaced it with instability".

Peter Riddell, page 9
Shares slump, page 25

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Double act turns the tables on overpaid shower

It is worse than a scandal. It is an outrage. To watch MPs interview the chief executive and the chairman of British Gas yesterday was to see that popular disquiet is well-founded. Top people in key positions are indeed remunerated out of all proportion to their talent. MPs are scandalously overpaid.

We attended the Select Committee on Employment's interview of Cedric Brown and Richard Giordano in the expectation of watching two pompous fat-cats roasted by a panel of conscientious MPs. Instead, we saw two rather capable men pecked at by an ill-disciplined shower of shal-low, fuzzy-minded and ill-informed show-offs.

Yet expectations had been high. A new figure was to be interviewed alongside Mr Brown. This was British Gas's chairman, the American-born Mr Giordano. "You touch a my share-option. I smash a your face." A pack of journalists waited in the corridor while the Great Ones within prepared their interrogation. Perhaps their chairman, Greville Janner, QC, MP (Lab, Leicester W), was reading from a leaflet advertising the courses his own company, JSB, offers in "Presentational Skills". I have a copy: a three-day course will set you back £925. You will learn techniques for "assessing audiences — and key individuals; planning and delivering 'soundbites'; fine-tuning, eye contact, poise and posture — maximising gravitas".

As we entered, Mr Janner himself, wearing a large pink carnation, maximised his gravitas, poise and posture, assessed key individuals in his audience and fine-tuned his eye-contact. He looked straight at Fleet Street's two sketchwriters, inclined his head, and gave us a little smile.

If only what followed had lived up to this. Mr Janner himself interrupted the first questioner, Ernie Ross (Lab, Dundee W), wrecking his line of inquiry. Next, Angela Eagle (Lab, Wallasey), adopting a manner by turns aggressive or whining, appeared to think that Mr Brown's company was near the top, not the bottom, of the FTSE 100 companies. Her questioning careered off-course and hit a tree. Mr Brown, in a suit which exhibited signs of gas-fitter's elbow, managed to remain polite.

But it was Mr Giordano who most impressed. Well-bred and bright, he seemed in a different league from most British businessmen. The committee never touched him.

David Nicholson (C, Taunton) let his exasperation show. He had asked how directors' pay should be determined. Mr Giordano began a considered answer. "By giving a long reply you're taking time out of my allocation!" spluttered Nicholson, providing a splendid if unwitting summary of MPs' approach to select committee participation.

He was followed by Sir Ralph Howell (C, Norfolk N), who asked: "Why do you think we're concentrating so much on British Gas?" Mr Brown's restraint in not replying: "Search me. Why do you think you're concentrating so much on British Gas?" was heroic. Then Ken Eastham (Lab, Blackley), who quoted an inaccurate report, appeared to have forgotten the outcome of the committee's last exchanges on showroom employees.

If this committee were a darts team, on would despair of their holding their darts with the sharp bits pointing forward, let alone spotting the dartboard, let alone hitting it. Can anyone think of a way of relating select committee members' remuneration to results?

London bed search ends in Leeds

A man with head injuries who was run over by a van in Orpington, southeast London, had to be flown to a hospital in Leeds 200 miles away by an RAF air-sea rescue helicopter summoned from Suffolk after doctors were unable to find a neuro-surgery unit anywhere nearer that could treat him.

The accident happened on Monday night and the 30-year-old man underwent surgery yesterday. Police later arrested the van driver.

Gay bishop

An Anglican bishop last night became the first to discuss his homosexuality openly. The Rt Rev Derek Rawcliffe, 73, an Assistant Bishop in the Ripon diocese, told BBC television that "he wanted to reassure priests who were gay and that the Church has got to come to terms with the situation, not to hedge about it".

Church note, page 8

Hostage rescued

Police yesterday rescued Karl Wilson, 24, who was beaten and held for a ransom of £2,200 over a debt. Two men were arrested at the pick-up point for the money in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and a woman was later held during a raid on an address at Writtle.

Hepatitis doubts

Doctors are calling for a review of hepatitis B screening procedures after doubts over the accuracy of tests. Researchers at University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff found kits used to check for infection in health workers gave conflicting results.

Dounreay leak

Urgent investigations are being made at the Dounreay nuclear reprocessing plant in Highland after a concentration of radioactivity was found in working areas last month. The Scottish Office said last night. The plant was shut down and evacuated.

Murder hunt

A nationwide police hunt for Brian Cuthbertson, former boyfriend of a murdered care worker, has switched to Cramlington, Northumbria, after he was seen in the area. Phaedra Walker's body was found near Cookham, Berkshire, on Saturday.

Cheese reprieve

Humphrey Errington, a farmer whose stock of unpasteurised blue-veined cheese was ordered to be destroyed as unfit for human consumption, has won a month's reprieve from the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday.

Hope for boxer

The boxer Gerald McClellan showed the first signs of regaining consciousness yesterday, ten days after being injured during a fight against Nigel Benn. The hospital said his condition was stable but it was "difficult to say" whether he was still in a coma.

Yacht signals

Fresh distress signals have been picked up from an emergency beacon belonging to the solo British yachtsman Harry Mitchell, 1,500 miles west of Cape Horn. The search is continuing near where his original distress signal was picked up.



Straw: no free market in incarceration

Gas chief backs cap on salaries

Continued from page 1 and proposed that all pay, benefits, bonus and share details for every company director should be fully disclosed in their annual reports. While he suggested that such a change could be achieved through amending the Stock Exchange's rules on disclosure, he told the Commons committee: "If it can't be accomplished through that, I support legislation."

Mr Giordano's statement supports the pledge made last week by the Prime Minister that the Government would consider legislation if it is proposed by the Confederation of British Industry. Mr Major's statement angered many right-wing Tories.

The gas chairman's explicit endorsement of it is likely to be seen by many privatised utility bosses as going further than they were prepared for. He acknowledged there was now among the public a "sense of disquiet and cynicism" about directors' pay-setting.

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Mayhew sets conditions for IRA disarmament

BY TOM RHODES AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Northern Ireland Secretary set out a three-point plan for decommissioning of IRA weapons yesterday that would allow Sinn Féin to join full negotiations on the future of the Province.

In a speech in Washington, Sir Patrick Mayhew said Sinn Féin could end its "self-imposed disqualification" from the political process if it met the conditions in the plan.

Sir Patrick said the Government wanted Sinn Féin to show a "willingness in principle to disarm progressively" and for the two sides to agree on how arms would be decommissioned. He urged republicans to start the process by decommissioning some of its arms as a "tangible confidence-building measure". He added: "Substantial progress on this must be made before Sinn Féin in particular can be admitted to substantive talks for an overall settlement."

Sir Patrick told reporters as he went into a meeting with Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State.

Unionists last night accused Sir Patrick of capitulating to the IRA. Ken Maginnis, the

Ulster Unionist security spokesman, said: "We have 100 tonnes of sophisticated weapons in the hands of the IRA and the Secretary of State is talking about tokens. That flies in the face and fears of 90 per cent of this community."

Sir Patrick denied that his remarks, the most detailed explanation of the Government's position on decommissioning since exploratory talks with Sinn Féin began in December, signalled a turnaround from an earlier government principle that disarmament must be complete before substantive talks could take place. "That has never been the case," Sir Patrick said. "What we have said is that substantial progress must be made in the decommissioning of arms before, so far as we are concerned, Sinn Féin could be admitted to substantial talks."

"In a democracy, parties will not sit down and must not sit down with another party that implies that if it does not get its way it is going to... return to arms."

Mr Christopher urged all sides "to continue to refrain

from violence" and said the IRA and loyalists should take "the next essential step towards disarmament" — the decommissioning of arms.

Earlier in his speech Sir Patrick said the discussion on weapons would include procedures for verification, the need for independent supervision of the destruction of arms, and decommissioning methods.

His comments indicated that the Government accepted IRA weapons would only be handed over in the Republic, and might be decommissioned elsewhere. Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, recently suggested that a Scandinavian country could deal with the weapons.

Sir Patrick urged members of the Clinton Administration not to treat Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, as a world leader. "We are the country that has sustained the consequences of his violence over the last 25 years... It would be dismaying to about 50 million people to see Mr Adams shaking hands with the President of the greatest democracy in the world," he said.

Exclusion orders on 14 to go

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD is to lift up to 14 exclusion orders banning people who live in Northern Ireland and elsewhere from entering Britain today after security service advice that they are no longer a threat.

The Home Secretary will make the announcement during the annual Commons debate on the Prevention of Terrorism Act and tell MPs that he has reached his decision after reviewing 56 outstanding orders banning people from entering Britain. The decision to lift fewer than half of the 56 existing orders will be strongly resented by nationalist MPs in Northern Ireland and the Irish government who, in the wake of the IRA ceasefire, have expected the lifting of a much larger number of orders.

Mr Howard has decided against altering the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which is to be renewed in its entirety. Last month Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, lifted exclusion orders on ten people banned from the Province.

Unionists try to split Tory vote

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND JILL SHERMAN

ULSTER Unionists, angry at the Government over its policies on Northern Ireland, are to take their fight to the mainland ballot box. They intend to support an independent Unionist candidate at the Perth and Kinross by-election in an attempt to split the Conservative vote.

The move is the first in what is expected to be a long-running campaign of fielding Unionist candidates against Conservatives. The Ulster Unionists say that the challenge will highlight the Government's double standards over Scotland and Northern Ireland.

No date has been set for the by-election but April 6, the day of the local authority elections in Scotland, is a strong possibility. The Perth and Kinross seat has been left vacant by the death of the Tory MP Sir Nicholas Fairbairn who held it for 21 years. His majority was only 2,094 and even a small split in the Tory vote could lead to their defeat.

James Molyneux, leader of Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), made known at Westminster that the first he knew of his

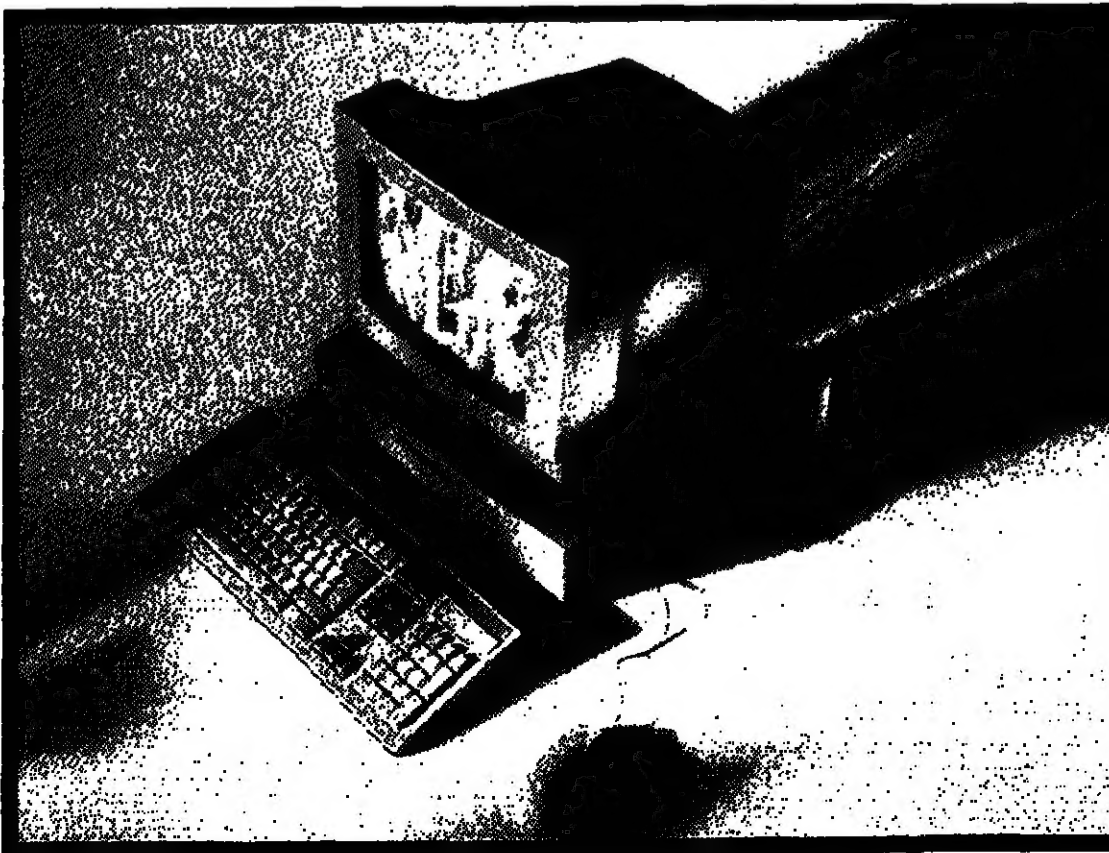
party's attempts to back a candidate was in newspaper reports yesterday morning. However, it emerged later that Jeffrey Donaldson, honorary secretary of the party, approached MPs last Sunday night to sound out their opinion on backing a candidate. Members of the party said privately that they were prepared to work unofficially with Unionists in Scotland.

The independent Unionists have not announced the identity of their candidate. Anyone fighting as an independent is expected to come from the ranks of disaffected Scottish Tories.

A Conservative spokesman in Scotland said that the Unionist plans "will not affect our policy or election strategy". The Tory candidate is John Godfrey, who works for a Japanese merchant bank in London. He has been accused of being too English.

General election 1992: Sir N Fairbairn (C), 20,195; Ms R Cunningham (SNP), 18,101; M J Rolfe (Lab), 6,267; M Black (LD), 5,714. C maj: 2,094.

Rich Perth, page 9



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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Pets welcome

Weekend
MAGAZINE

حکومت من الاعمال

Twin town too far takes cordiale out of entente

By PAUL WILKINSON AND SUSAN BELL

A LIAISON of nearly 40 years between Yorkshire and the Pyrenees is dying from lack of interest. Both parties agree it was always a non-starter, an enforced link that neither really wanted, separated as they are by 1,000 miles and different languages. To put it bluntly, Ripon and Foix have never hit it off.

The last straw in their rocky relationship has been Foix's admission that it has another partner on its doorstep. The good citizens of Foix prefer to visit their other twin town of Lerida, a short drive across the Spanish border where, unlike Ripon, the visiting

French can understand the version of Catalan spoken by their hosts.

Ripon (population 14,000, magnificent cathedral) forged a bond with Foix (population 10,000, fairytale castle and monastic hilltop ruins) in 1957, in the heady days when town-twinning was all the rage in helping to forge a united Europe.

A grand, illuminated protocol d'amitié hangs in the Mayor's office in Ripon, presented when the two municipalities were thrust together by a Euro-dating agency that specialised in finding partner towns with supposedly com-

mon interests. Since then, however, the twins have barely spoken to each other.

The issue came to a head when the organisers of the annual Ripon festival decided to make a final effort and invited Foix's rugby team and Mexican band to North Yorkshire. However, when the festival organisers asked for £2,000 to put the visitors up, Ripon council decided it was not worth the trouble.

Patrick Webb, secretary to the Mayor of Ripon, said yesterday: "I don't think we will formally vote to end the connection, but I don't think we will be doing much in that

direction. We have strong links with the Ripons in California and Wisconsin."

Things have not gone well since a party of Ripon Rotarians visited Foix within months of the twinning to be told at the town hall that the Mayor was too busy to see them. Since then, invitations to the Ripon festival, and letters written by Ripon schoolchildren during their French lessons, have gone unanswered.

Harold Baines, Mayor of Ripon, said yesterday: "It was a non-runner from the start. I agree with the French: it was just too far away. They should have got the map out a bit earlier to see where Foix was. As a result, we haven't spoken to them for 38 years."

Caroline Gonzalez, of the Foix tourist office, admitted yesterday that the Spanish twin town of Lerida was a greater attraction. "We can go there in the morning and come home again in the afternoon. It is much easier than going to your Yorkshire."

Juliette Grangé, Deputy Mayor of Foix, said the twinning arrangement had been made by a former Mayor, an English teacher. When he retired, interest declined. "No one speaks much English at the mairie now. We are much closer to Spain and their language. It is a question of languages, really."

Visitors to Yorkshire from the Home Counties have been known to take a similar view.

Leading article, page 19



Sir Robert Stephens with his wife and fellow actor Patricia Quinn after receiving the insignia of his knighthood from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Starr swore at me, gardener tells court

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A GARDENER who worked for Freddie Starr told a court yesterday that the comedian was a violent man who had shaken and verbally abused him.

Robin Coxhead, 44, from Reading, Berkshire, worked for Mr Starr and his former wife Sandra for seven years. He told Reading Crown Court: "Freddie was addicted to Valium. He had terrible mood swings. One time he hit Mrs Starr in the face with a coat hanger."

Mr Coxhead, who was sacked by Mrs Starr after he allegedly used their house to entertain men while the Starrs were away, is accused of stealing jewels worth £41,000 from them. He denies three charges of theft, and said that the jewellery was given to him by Mr Starr in return for sexual favours.

Mr Coxhead told the jury that on one occasion Mr Starr had pushed him against the wall, calling him a prima donna. "After that he said, 'let's be friends and buddies again' and that's when he gave me a Cartier watch, around November 1993."

Earlier Susan Englefield, a housekeeper who worked for the Starrs from October 1993 until recently, told the jury that Mr Coxhead had told her that he was in debt and that he was trying to sell some jewellery, worth about £13,000. "He was anxious that I didn't tell Sandie Starr," she said. The trial continues.

'Days of jolly junkets are over'

RIPON is the second English town to have cut ties with its French partner within the past year, although there are only about a dozen cases of such a separation (Ian Murray writes).

Last autumn Hatfield, in Hertfordshire, decided to break its two-and-a-half-year links with Marseilles, near Marseille, because it was unable to organise holiday exchanges for children. Peter Clarke, the Hatfield town clerk, said yesterday: "A main problem is that it is a southern French town and the journey times are so long. If we should decide to link with another French town it will have to be a lot closer."

According to the Interna-

tional Local Government Bureau, town-twinning is more popular than ever, with 1,765 existing partnerships and 70 formed every year. There are currently 300 towns looking for English partners and 150 English towns seeking a twin.

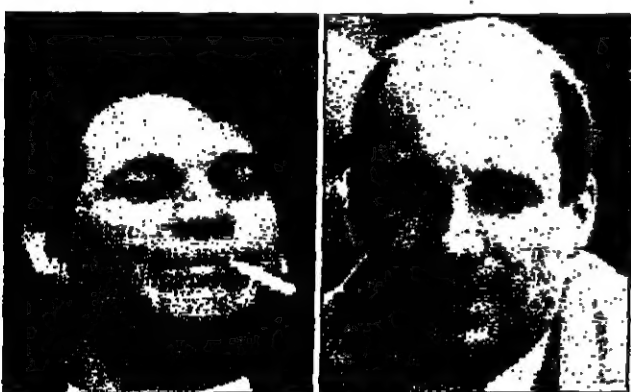
The bureau, which acts as the clearing house for all applications, does its best to bring towns together with similar interests, locations, history or economic backgrounds. It claims that hardly any mismatches occur. "If there are a few hiccups people let the relationship lie dormant for a year or two and then a new group of people will come along and start it up again."

The twinning movement

grew out of wartime links. Keighley, in West Yorkshire, established one of the first in 1920 when it built a red brick hall for Poix-de-Picardie, a town ravaged in the First World War.

Coventry lays claim to being the most twinned town, with 26 partners all over the world. Its first was formed in 1944 with Stalingrad — now Volgograd — and 16 of its twins are with cities ravaged by war. It now has an appeal for blankets and children's shoes for Sarajevo, another twin.

"The days of twinning providing jolly junkets for councillors are over," a Coventry spokesman said. "Twinning for us means helping people."



Hobbs, "unpleasant"

PC King: faces sack

Royal bodyguard fined for assault

By ANDREW PIERCE

A FORMER police bodyguard to John Major and the Princess Royal was fined yesterday for punching a teenager who had threatened to throw his nine-week-old baby out of a train window.

PC Richard King now faces the sack from the City of London force after being found guilty at Southend Magistrates' Court of assault. The court was told that the off-duty policeman, who denied assault, was cradling his daughter Jessica when he overheard David Hobbs, 18, say: "I'd like to throw her out of the window." Mr Hobbs, who was with five friends, said it was a light-hearted remark which the policeman was not intended to hear.

King, a member of the City of London tactical firearms unit, told the court: "I could not believe what I heard. My six-year-old son was petrified. I wasn't going to wait to see if

he carried out the threat." After punching Mr Hobbs he handed the baby to his wife Tina and arrested him.

Inigo Bing, the stipendiary magistrate, said that Mr Hobbs had behaved in a "silly, unpleasant and worrying way". He said "I have some understanding of the concern of parents who have a child in their care, but I consider that PC King overreacted."

PC King, of South Benfleet, Essex, was fined £150 for the assault on the Southend line last June. He said: "The look on his face was sneering. I thought he was threatening my child. It happened so quickly I didn't have time to say 'I'm arresting you. I'm a police officer'."

Michael Egan, for the defence, said that the comment by Mr Hobbs was offensive. "One could not blame any parent for taking it as a threat of violence."

Weddings team beats Hollywood to the deal

By ANDREW PIERCE

A BRITISH novelist who wrote his first book four years ago has sold his latest work for \$1 million to the London production company that made *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Only two weeks ago the rights to Philip Kerr's *Gridiron* were put up for auction by the London literary agents A.P. Watt. Hollywood studios had shown great interest in the 38-year-old writer, who was fêted last year by Grants as one of Britain's best new novelists.

But the north London production company Working Title, buoyed by record-breaking revenues from the Oscar-nominated *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, which starred Hugh Grant, was able to beat off the Hollywood challenge. Tim Bevan, who was one of the producers of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, helped to secure the deal, which is the most expensive in the production company's history.

The book, which the producers believe will appeal to American audiences, revolves around a high-tech office block that has a mind of its own. A computer in the basement, which powers the technology in the building, develops its own logic with terrifying consequences.

Mr Bevan clinched the deal last Friday with a \$1 million offer (£640,000), which the Kerr camp accepted immediately. Filming will start next year with a budget of about \$30 million. Most of the filming will take place in Britain, providing a further fillip to the industry.

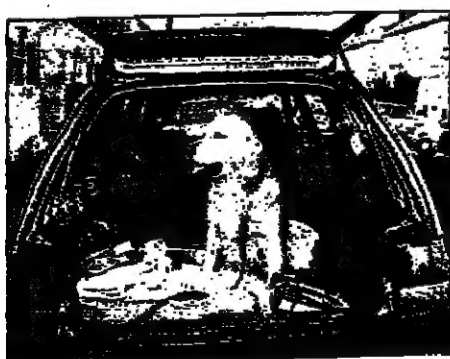
Nicholas Marston, who handled the negotiations for A.P. Watt, said: "We were going to follow usual policy and aim to sell the book, which is set in Los Angeles, to Hollywood. But Phil Kerr was anxious to strike a deal with a British company. We decided to let Working Title have a look at *Gridiron* on a first-look basis to see if they wanted to make an offer."

It is the second notable success for Mr Marston. Last year he sold the rights to *The Horse Whisperer*, by the British writer Nick Evans, to Robert Redford for £2 million.

Mr Marston admitted he could probably have secured a better fee from an American studio. "Working Title was impressive because of its enthusiasm for the project. It is great news for the British film industry. It means that ... Working Title is up in the same league as Hollywood."

Working Title, which is based in Kentish Town, is owned by the Dutch firm Polygram. A director and cast for the film will be chosen within the next month and it is expected to be on general release at the end of next year. *Gridiron* will be published in Britain in June.

THE TIMES



Pets welcome

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Weekend

ANNE ROBINSON ON HUNTING AND OPRAH WINFREY IN THE

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Families condemn BBC over ritual abuse drama

BY ROBIN YOUNG

FAMILIES who were involved in allegations of the ritual or sexual abuse of their children are incensed that the BBC plans to screen a drama inspired by their experiences.

Flowers of the Forest is to be announced tomorrow as a Screen 2 production from BBC Scotland. It has been written by Michael Eaton, who scripted ITV's *Shoot to Kill* drama-documentary about Northern Ireland, which was accused of being biased towards the IRA.

Flowers of the Forest is set in a small Highland community and deals with the difficulties that social workers confront in dealing with a suspected case of ritual abuse. Mr Eaton acknowledges that he drew on events in widely publicised cases in Orkney, Rochdale and Cleveland in which children were seized but allegations of abuse were later concluded to have been groundless.

Families in the Orkney case, in which nine children were taken from their homes on the island of South Ronaldsay in 1991, and in Ayr, where children were returned home only



Martini: play is in "incredibly bad taste"



Bell: "no good" for children or parents

last week, have attacked the proposed screening as a tasteless bid for higher ratings. They complained yesterday that the Highland location used for the filming would make viewers think that the events portrayed were what had really happened in Orkney or Ayr.

Dr Helen Martini, leader of the South Ronaldsay Parents' Action Group, described the play as "pure ratings-grabbing". "It is incredibly bad taste," she said. "To dramatise such events is just not on. Filming in a remote Scottish

Highland village points immediately to Orkney. We do not want to be branded the place where parents have sex with kids. We just want to get on with our lives."

Dr Martini, a surgeon who campaigned on behalf of the four South Ronaldsay families, said that the BBC project was crass and callous. "There is too much heartache and suffering in communities such as ours to consider this topic a fit subject for entertainment."

Michael Johnston, a solicitor in Ayr whose firm represented a family whose three

sons were taken into care, said: "The BBC will have to exercise extreme caution and give clear warnings that the events portrayed are fictional. Neither Satanic nor ritual sexual abuse has ever been established in these cases. What would be of benefit would be to highlight the serious excesses social workers indulge in when they decide that something sinister has happened."

The Middlesbrough MP Stuart Bell, who helped Cleveland families to regain their children after social workers took 121 into care in 1987, said: "Rehashing events which were nightmares for all the families concerned will do no good whatsoever for them or their children."

BBC Scotland confirmed last night that the screening would go ahead. "Mr Eaton has researched the story very thoroughly and has looked at several recent cases. This is a fiction, not based on any one case. Everyone at BBC Scotland, and Mr Eaton himself, is aware of the seriousness and sensitivity of the subject."

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CARL RUTHERFORD

Dog survives 300ft plunge on to rocks

A pet terrier nestles safely in the arms of its owner after plunging 300ft over a cliff. Darren McConnell, 13, feared the worst when Fail lost its footing after chasing a rabbit near Skinningrove, Cleveland. When his father Trevor scrambled down he discovered the dog, a Lakeland-Border cross, lying stunned and with a cut head. A check by a veterinary surgeon showed it had suffered no other injury. Darren, of

Loftus, Cleveland, said: "The cliff is one of the highest along the coast and I thought Fail wouldn't survive. Cats are supposed to be lucky and have many lives but Fail must be the luckiest dog in Britain. We called her Fail as a pup after we lost two terriers down

holes over the years. We knew she wouldn't fall and she has proved it. I don't think any other dog would have survived. She had never been out along this part of the cliffs before and I don't think she'll be going again." Mr McConnell, an unemployed

mineworker, said: "Fail loves hunting, but next time we will have to fix a parachute to her or she might not be so lucky." Two specially trained dogs are being used by Devon and Cornwall Police to hunt illegal firearms. Shay, a collie cross, and Dilly, a springer spaniel, will scour the countryside and buildings. "It does not matter when the weapons were last used, or how carefully they have been cleaned," a spokesman said.

Ceasefire puts IRA police back on the beat

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of police officers are being taken off anti-terrorist operations in London as part of a peace dividend from the IRA ceasefire. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said yesterday.

For the first time, fighting terrorism is not among the top objectives for the force for the next year, but Sir Paul said he was not planning to dismantle the 130-strong anti-terrorist branch or special branch team of 550 officers. He said that it would be unwise to disband something which he might suddenly need.

Sir Paul said that terrorism still had a high priority and there would always be a core of specialist officers on hand which could be assisted in an emergency by officers from other units.

Senior officers within the anti-terrorist branch and the special branch acknowledge that there will have to be cuts if the peace holds. Protection duties alone cost £73 million a year.

Some senior officers have already retired and not been replaced under general cuts at Scotland Yard. But Sir Paul and his staff are expected to examine manpower in the Yard's protection and security teams this autumn if the ceasefire holds for a year and no splinter groups emerge to carry on mainland attacks.

Yesterday Sir Paul, announcing his priorities and policing plans for the year, said that London remained a target for all kinds of terrorism apart from the IRA, including Middle Eastern groups and incidents such as the attacks on the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish centre last year.

But he said hundreds of officers were no longer needed to guard central London.

Sponsored colleges to focus on languages

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A NETWORK of government-sponsored language colleges was announced yesterday as part of a £60 million initiative to encourage more schools to play to their strengths.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, opened the bidding for special grants for up to 200 schools. The language centres will join 67 secondary schools already designated as technology colleges. Further specialisation in state schools is one of the Government's key education reforms.

Candidates for language grants will need to raise £100,000 in private sponsorship to qualify. Local businesses and firms with an export base are expected to be the main funding source.

In return the schools will receive money for buildings or equipment and an annual grant related to their size. Mrs Shephard, herself a linguist, said: "Speaking foreign languages is not only important for our future as a trading nation, but learning another language must be part of any balanced education."

A modern language is already part of the national curriculum, which the successful schools will continue to teach. They will also be expected to offer a wider range of languages, including possibly Japanese or Russian.

The scheme is intended to enable schools to offer their pupils more exchanges and study visits, or to teach other subjects through the medium of a foreign language.

One of the first candidates is expected to be Dartford Grammar School, in Kent, which has already raised the necessary sponsorship. If the school is chosen, languages will occupy 20 per cent of the timetable for all pupils between the ages of 12 and 14.

Romans killed babies to limit population

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ROMAN occupiers of Britain limited the population by killing children at birth, a study of burial grounds has shown. Most of the victims were girls.

Dr Simon Mays, of English Heritage's ancient monuments laboratory, says that the burials include a disproportionate number of newborn babies. Age at death can be determined within about two weeks by measuring the skeletons' longer bones.

Dr Mays has examined 164 children's skeletons, 86 from Roman cemeteries and 78 from villas and settlements. Some will have been stillbirths or will have died from natural causes soon after birth, but a peak in deaths at about 40 weeks of gestation — the age of a full-term infant — is too

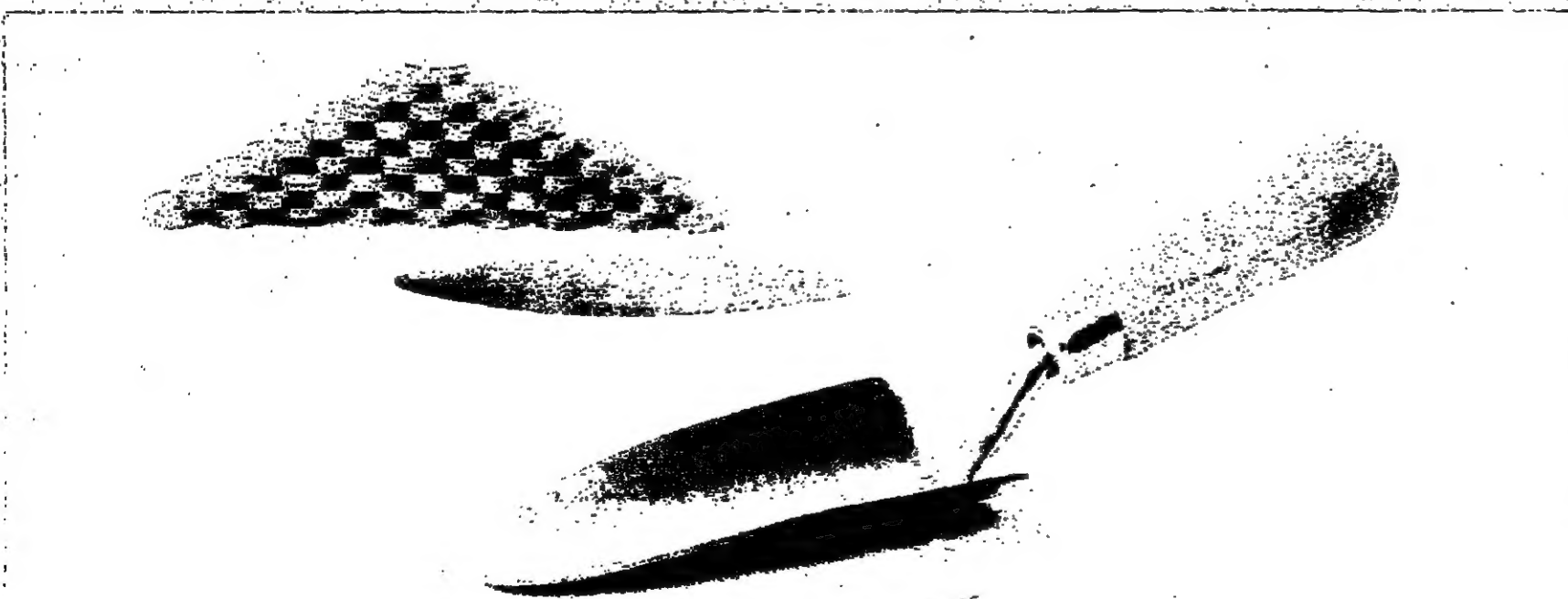
clear-cut to be explained by these deaths alone, he writes in *British Archaeology*.

"The pattern holds for both the cemetery and non-cemetery sites, showing that the victims of infanticide were not always denied regular burial," he says.

The finding may help to explain the preponderance of male adult skeletons in Romano-British cemeteries. The evidence from nearly 2,400 adult skeletons shows 155 males to every 100 females.

This pattern is consistent with widespread infanticide, in which girls are more likely to be killed than boys. Dr Mays says that infanticide is probably as old as humanity, as Stone Age burials show a similar sex ratio.

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Downing St resolute over celebration

VJ veterans appalled by US appeasement

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BRITISH veterans of the Far East campaign expressed disgust yesterday at President Clinton's decision to ban the term VJ-Day — Victory over Japan — from American commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Downing Street, however, said Britain had no plans to bow to Japanese sensibilities and that the term VJ-Day, in common use for half a century, would be applied to British events marking the anniversary in August. Air Vice-Marshal Sir Bernard Chacksfield, chairman of the Burma Star Association, which represents 17,000 survivors of the war against Japan, said that his organisation had made strong representations to John Major when the anniversary events were being planned.

"This was a victory over Japan; there can be no flinching about it. We do not feel like being meaty-mouthed in commemorating a victory

that was won at such cost in lives." The American decision to how to diplomatic pressure and name the commemorations simply End of the War was disgusting, he said.

Harold Payne, president of the Far East Prisoners of War Association, took an equally firm view. "I don't care a sausage what other countries do: we are British, and to us VJ is victory over Japan. Why should we change it out of consideration for the Japanese? They did not give much consideration to us when we were their prisoners of war."

There was still a strong anti-Japanese feeling within his association's 68 branches. The Royal British Legion said yesterday that it had "no problem" with the term VJ-Day. The Japanese Embassy in London refused to be drawn into the controversy, saying that the manner and naming of commemorations was a matter for individual governments. An embassy spokes-

man denied that Tokyo had applied diplomatic pressure, but the fact remains that Australia and New Zealand have opted for "Victory in the Pacific" as the title of their events, and Canada has opted for "Canada Remembers".

The date of Germany's surrender, May 8, 1945, is known as Victory in — not over — Europe and the Japanese apparently believe they have been singled out in terms of semantics.

During the early planning stages of the British commemorations, veterans' associations made it abundantly plain to the Prime Minister that the veterans would refuse to parade if a single Japanese representative was present at the official events. "I don't think they would want to be there anyway; they would lose face by admitting that they started the war, and lost it," Sir Bernard said.

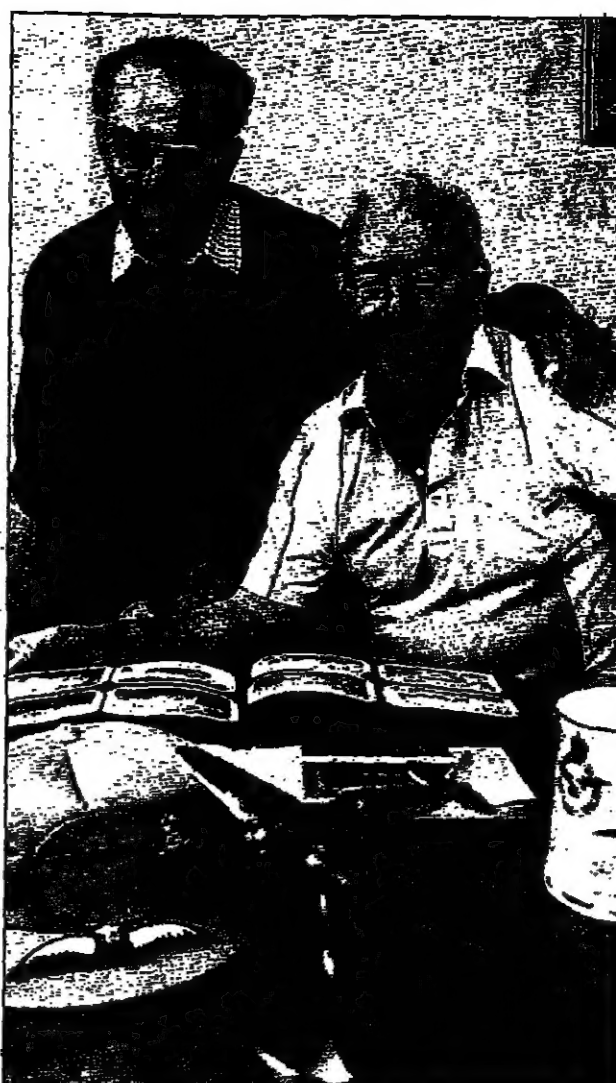
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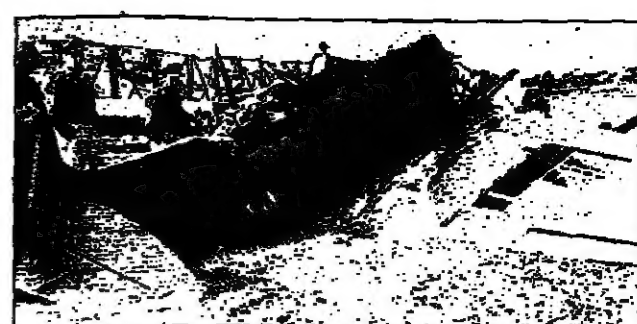
Boddice joined the RAF aged 17



Allen: last officer to fly with Boddice



Eric Boddice, left, and Aubrey Allen, reminiscing over their war years after 48 years out of touch



The plane crashed by Mr Boddice in front of Mr Allen

Spitfire pilots enjoy doorstep reunion

TWO Second World War Spitfire pilots were reunited after 48 years when they found that they lived less than a mile apart. Eric Boddice and Aubrey Allen had flown together in 72 Squadron but lost contact when they were demobbed in 1947.

It was only last week when they were told of a squadron reunion next month that the two former RAF pilots realised they lived half a mile from each other. Yesterday Mr Boddice, 71, said: "A friend who was helping to organise the reunion told me there was a bloke who didn't live too far away from me who needed a lift. It was only when I phoned Aubrey that I realised who it was. I was absolutely amazed when he told me he lived literally down

the road. He's been living there for 20 years and I've been here for the past seven but we never bumped into each other."

Mr Allen realised who his near neighbour was only when Mr Boddice reminded him of an incident in Austria. "Eric told me when he phoned that he was the man who crashed his Spitfire when making a landing during training operations in 1947."

"He was a flight sergeant and I was his superior flying officer and I remembered watching him make a right cock-up as he landed, ruining one of our aircraft."

The reunion has also turned up Mr Allen's aircraft engineer, who lives a few miles away in Solihull.

Criminals join hunt for rapist

BY PAUL WILKINSON

CRIMINALS have joined the public in telephoning the police with information in the hunt for a man thought to be responsible for 11 sex attacks in Leeds within the past month.

Detective Inspector Roy Kent said that more than 60 calls had been received from the public. "The fact that known criminals have contacted us with information illustrates how even they hate to see this sort of thing happening."

The attacker's only rape victim said yesterday that she felt no bitterness towards him. The 45-year-old woman, who was forced into a disused garage at knifepoint on Friday night, said: "I just feel sorry for him. He must be a lonely man to go to such desperate measures for sex."

She added: "I realised when he drew the knife that the only thing I could do was to go with him. He was very strong and agile. If I had resisted strongly I would probably not be here today."

The man has been called the "hippie rapist" by police because of his 1960s-style clothing. They believe that the same man is responsible for eight indecent assaults on teenage girls outside a Roman Catholic school last month and three attacks, culminating in the rape, on Friday.

Terrace ban for fan who threw turnip

A FOOTBALL fan who threw a turnip in front of the former England manager Graham Taylor was fined £60 yesterday and banned from soccer grounds for three months.

Craig Allen, 27, a Bolton Wanderers supporter, threw the vegetable on to the pitch when his team played Wolverhampton Wanderers, managed by Mr Taylor, who was nicknamed "Turnip Head" by a tabloid newspaper after a string of England defeats.

Allen, a scaffolder, pleaded guilty at Bolton Magistrates' Court to throwing an offensive article during a game at Bolton's ground, Burnden Park, in February.

Steven Sargeant, for the prosecution, said: "The Wolves manager was just about to take his seat at the touchline when police officers saw three turnips land on the playing area near where he was sitting." Stewards identified Allen, of Brownley Cross, Bolton, who told police: "I only threw one."

Allen, who defended himself, told the magistrates that a friend had bought the turnips: "I am not a football hooligan or a yob. I realise what I did was irresponsible and wrong. There was no malice or intention to injure anyone. It was a bit of a joke which backfired."

He said after the hearing: "It could not have come at a worse time. Bolton are doing very well this season."

MILLENNIUM LECTURE SERIES

THE TIMES • DEMOS Communitarianism by Amitai Etzioni

Amitai Etzioni, founder of the American communitarian movement, is one of the most influential and controversial political thinkers in the world today. In this second Times/Demos Millennium lecture, he will present the communitarian case, its critique of both left and right and give his views on how society and government need to develop in the late 1990s.

In the last two years, Professor Etzioni's ideas have been taken up by politicians as diverse as President Clinton and Chancellor Kohl, Jack Kemp and Al Gore. He argues that we need to balance rights with responsibilities and that instead of leaving everything to the state or the market we need to build up the intermediate institutions of the voluntary sector, schools and the family.

The lecture, chaired by David Marquand, Professor of Politics at Sheffield University, will be held on Monday March 13, 1995 at 7.30 pm at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1.

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Archbishop links marriage breakdown to no-hope men

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE breakdown of marriage was linked to women's emancipation and the rising number of young men regarded as not worth marrying, the Archbishop of York said last night.

Growing economic independence of the sexes and the importance given to personal self-fulfilment were also factors. The conjunction of those factors meant the crisis in marriage was "to some extent a crisis about the role of men", Dr John Habgood said.

There was an increasing body of men "who feel that they have no particular stake in society, and who by and large are regarded by women as not worth marrying. Their plight is made worse by their having to exist on the fringes of a culture which judges success in terms of self-gratification."

The archbishop, himself happily married, said it was that group of men "who now form the most visible manifestation of a society under strain". They were "the fall-out from processes of change, which some see as having



Habgood: support for no-fault divorce

fatally and irreversibly weakened family life but which others, including myself, believe can be surmounted."

His address to theologians and religious students at Leeds University came as the Church of England nears completion of its long-awaited report on the family. Dr Habgood said that, despite the "deconstruction" of the family, most people still chose to get married, and an increasing proportion was marrying several times.

That was a reminder of the continuing importance of

marriage. The archbishop criticised the minority of single parents who deliberately chose to be single and repeated his appeal for financial tax incentives for marriage. "In some instances, married couples actually fare worse in terms of tax than cohabitants," he said.

"There needs to be some socially significant distinctions between the married and those who adopt alternative forms of relationships."

Dr Habgood supported the Lord Chancellor's attempts to introduce no-fault divorce. "If fault is made the basis of divorce, then the whole issue becomes confrontational as soon as divorce proceedings are initiated," he said. "More civilised divorce procedures — not necessarily easier ones but less confrontational — could help married couples to feel that the law is on their side."

His address coincides with the publication of new Church of Scotland guidelines on the pressures and theological issues affecting marriage.

Even though popular attitudes now took little account of Christian faith, the Church must still hold fast, the guide-

lines state. "Far better this, however painful it may prove, than submerging our birthright in a mess of contemporary pottage."

The guidelines, to be debated by the General Assembly in May, show the extent to which the Church is split between those who condemn attempts to "swim with the tide" and those who believe the Church must come to terms with the increase in cohabitation.

On homosexuality, they say: "The Church's traditional preoccupation with people's sexual lives and their irregularities seems to many to have been put out of all proportion to the amount of concern Jesus expressed about them." Some lesbians and homosexual men saw it as unjust that lifelong celibacy should be imposed on them because of a sexual orientation they did not choose.

The Church's "preoccupation with sexual fidelity has left it failing to address the more pervasive and eroding sadness of non-relationships within marriage", the guidelines say, arguing that single people must not be undervalued or marginalised.



Lesbian wedding celebration. Cardinal Hume said the Catholic Church respected homosexual love but not sex

Church note on gay love praised

CARDINAL Basil Hume's statement that the Roman Catholic Church respects homosexual love but not sexual acts received a mixed reaction from gay groups yesterday (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Peter Tatchell, of the gay

rights activist group Out-Rage, welcomed the note as "the strongest condemnation yet of homophobia by the Catholic Church". But he decried the reiteration of the Church's attitude that homosexual genital acts were wrong. However, the Rev

Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said Cardinal Hume's argument had "a very clear and unambiguous flaw".

The Archbishop of Westminster had issued a new document affirming the right of homosexuals to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness. The eight-page note, circulated to all Roman Catholic bishops in England and Wales, said it was only homosexual acts that the Church believed were wrong, not love.

"Love between two persons, whether of the same sex or of a different sex, is to be treasured and respected," he said in his note, an expanded version of a document he published two years ago about Catholic teaching on homosexuality. The cardinal restates his support for a church teaching that describes homosexual genital acts as "objectively disordered" and "morally wrong". He

continued: "To love one another, whether of the same sex or of a different sex, is to have entered the area of richest human experience. But that experience of love is spoiled, whether it is in marriage or friendship, when we do not think and act as God wills us to think and act."

Cardinal Hume issued the new note after a number of groups and individuals approached him, seeking further clarification on the Church's teaching. Mr Tatchell said he was seeking further clarification of the cardinal's statement that any systematic failure to respect the dignity of homosexuals needed to be tackled, "if necessary by appropriate legislation". He added: "We want to know which discrimination laws he might support the abolition of." The note was a "mixed bag", and would fuel homophobia by its reiteration of the Church's line against homosexual genital acts.

Neo-Nazis persecute black vicar

By A Staff Reporter

A BLACK vicar is refusing to be intimidated by neo-Nazi signs and slogans daubed on his church. They include the words "Blood and Honour", a cross within a circle and "C18", representing Combat 18, the far-right movement at the forefront of the violence at the recent Ireland-England football match in Dublin. The numbers one and eight represent the position in the alphabet of Adolf Hitler's initials.

The Rev Henley James, vicar of St Mary the Virgin in Bearwood, Birmingham, said: "These people are just crazy but they are not going to stop me from doing my job and working my parish."

Mr James, 63, who came to Britain from Jamaica in 1955, said the attacks began about six months ago when a few windows in the church were smashed. "Then a few weeks later I saw a big Celtic cross and other racist slogans sprayed with white paint on the church notice board."

Two weeks ago 15 windows were smashed and cost nearly £2,000 to repair. "Last Wednesday they wrote Combat 18 on the church door. This morning when I came in the racists had sprayed Combat 18 on the front gate again. This time it was bigger."

Mr James, a father of four who lives in Edgbaston, added: "Unless I'm attacked personally it doesn't really matter to me." However, he was worried about his wife Gloria, 59. "I'm capable of defending myself, but my wife is the weak link in the chain. I don't know what would happen if she was attacked."

Posters for travel firm went too far

By LIN JENKINS

POSTERS for Club 18-30 holidays for young adults were offensive and irresponsible because they encouraged sex and drinking, the Advertising Standards Authority ruled yesterday.

More than 450 complaints were received about the campaign. One poster had the headline "Girls. Can we interest you in a package holiday?" above a photograph of a man with a prominent bulge in his boxer shorts.

Club 18-30 said that the £250,000 six-week campaign, which ended last month, boosted bookings by 36 per cent. The campaign, devised by Saatchi & Saatchi, reflected the essence of its holidays through a humour and colloquialism that only their broad-minded target market would understand.

The authority said that the campaign reached people outside the target market and it upheld the complaints.

The authority also criticised an Air Miles advertisement offering a "dirty weekend" in Paris after complaints that it was sleazy. It was headed: "Free from Air Miles, a dirty weekend that'll make her THINK you're filthy rich."

The advertisement featured a man and woman embracing on a bedroom balcony. The authority agreed with complaints that it portrayed women as cheap, materialistic and dependent on men's spending power.

Air Miles said the promotion was romantic and tongue-in-cheek and did not encourage adultery, but agreed to withdraw it.

Golf-lover takes late swing at club signs

A GOLFER left £1,000 in his will to pay for the removal of signs that spoil his pastime. James Broomer objected to signs that ask players "to avoid slow play", "repair pitch marks" and "rake bunkers".

He made the conditional bequest to Brough Golf Club, Hull, in his £365,459 will published yesterday. "Such signs are unnatural on a private course; insulting to reasonable golfers and ineffective in persuading unreasonable golfers to behave with consideration for others," he wrote.

Mr Broomer, of Goole, Humberside, died in November aged 67. His son Charles said: "He was a lawyer, so I wouldn't call him colourful, but he was highly respected, sensible, very considerate and well-liked." Bill Burleigh, gen-

eral manager of the club, said Mr Broomer's donation was "very generous". It would be discussed with the president and captain "to decide in which way we should move".

Mr Broomer, who is survived by his widow Averil and two other children, also bequeathed an unconditional £1,000 to Selby Golf Club.

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ASSASSINATION

US officials shield Claes from press over bribe claims

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN officials yesterday reaffirmed their confidence in Willy Claes as Secretary-General of Nato, but refused to discuss his alleged role in a bribery scandal during his former career in the Belgian Cabinet.

Mr Claes was in Washington for talks with President Clinton over the eastward expansion of Nato and the continuing crisis in the former Yugoslavia. His visit was dogged by questions over allegations that, as Economics Minister, Mr Claes knew his Socialist Party was paid \$1.7 million (£1.04 million) by the Italian aircraft maker, Agusta, in exchange for a contract to build 46 helicopters for the Belgian Army.

Christine Shelly, the State Department's spokeswoman, said: "We have full confidence in Mr Claes as Secretary-General." The department went out of its way to protect Mr Claes from questions by photographers and cameramen from attending a photo opportunity that preceded his working lunch with Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State.

One State Department official said: "We feel that Claes has done a commendable job as Secretary-General and we continue to support him in that capacity. We would not want to do anything that

would make the difficulties he is experiencing worse than they are."

Other officials said Washington would see what Mr Claes does about the allegations and then support his decision. They left the impression that they would rather not have to cope with the resignation of a secretary-general when the alliance has enough problems coping with its eastern growth and its inability to resolve the civil war in the Balkans.

Mr Claes has only been Secretary-General for five months, with scant opportunity to build the rapport in Washington enjoyed by his predecessors, Manfred Wörner and Lord Carrington. He has denied any wrongdoing, but had to retract an earlier statement that he knew nothing about the helicopter affair.

Mr Clinton told Mr Claes of his readiness to send a letter to President Yeltsin to allay the Russian leader's concerns over the addition of former Warsaw Pact members that will extend Nato to the borders of Russia. Mr Yeltsin has delayed taking the formal steps necessary to establish ties with Nato.

Mr Clinton and Mr Claes also hoped to dissuade President Tudjman of Croatia from expelling 12,000 United Nations peacekeepers. Yesterday the State Department put an

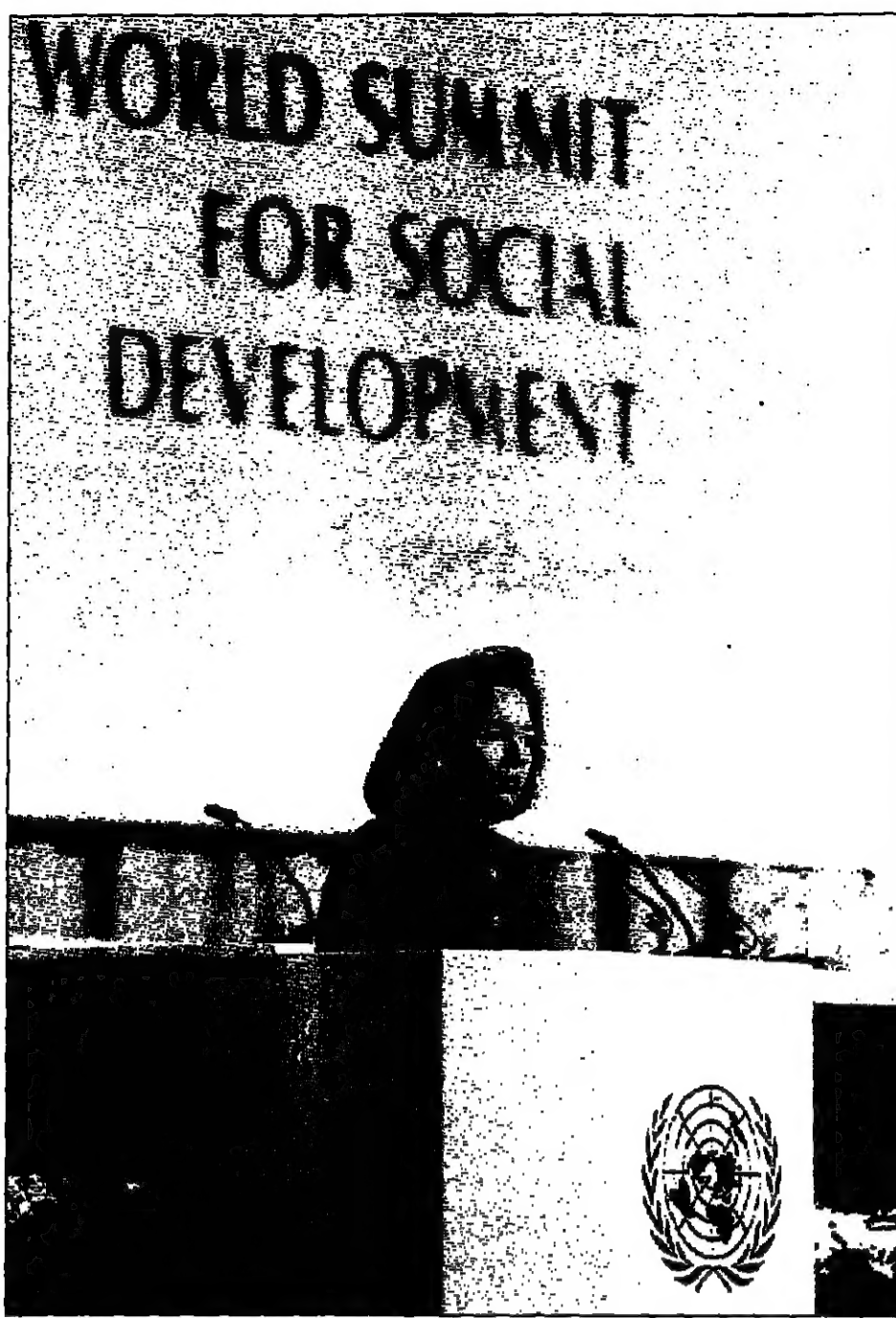
optimistic spin on talks in Zagreb where Richard Holbrooke, assistant US Secretary of State, was said to have failed to change Dr Tudjman's mind. An official said accounts "depicting this mission as a bust" were not entirely correct; the talks were more encouraging than initially reported.

Pentagon planners have been looking at the need for as many as 50,000 Nato troops to cover the withdrawal of peacekeepers from the Balkans.

Brussels: Police have searched the Brussels offices of the French defence firm, Dassault, and its Belgian unit in the defence bribery scandal.

A spokesman for Dassault, Belge Aviation, a holding company that owns the majority stake in Dassault's Belgian aeronautical engineering company Sabca, said police searched the company's offices on Monday and took away documents. "I can confirm police visited our offices. We gave them all the information requested," Jacques Detemmerman, Sabca's director general, said.

The inquiry widened after investigators were told of a payment of ten million French francs (£1.2 million), linked by Belgian media to Dassault for a different contract in 1989, into the Swiss bank account of a former Flemish Socialist official. (Reuters)



Hillary Clinton: basic human rights have to be respected

Summit told rights the key to progress

Copenhagen: Hillary Clinton, America's First Lady, emerged from months of self-imposed seclusion yesterday when she told delegates at a United Nations "poverty" summit that it was time their governments reconsidered their social policies.

"To meet the goals of this summit, governments will have to go about their business in new ways. They will have to rethink how to protect their most vulnerable populations in a time of shrinking resources and accelerated global competition," she told the World Summit for Social Development.

"They will have to respect basic human rights and that includes the rights of women and workers to be protected from exploitation and abuse, and they will have to create conditions that encourage individual initiative and a vibrant civil life."

The summit, which about 120 heads of state or government are expected to join by the weekend, is billed as the biggest-ever gathering of world leaders.

Differences remain between rich and poor countries over the wording of clauses on debt reduction and labour laws.

Denmark, the host nation, said yesterday it was writing off one billion Danish crowns (about £112 million) in loans to Angola, Nicaragua, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Bolivia and Egypt in an attempt to inspire other rich countries to do the same. (Reuters)



Lange: expressed open incredulity

Simpson detective scoffs at 'Mafia hit'

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

EXTRA VAGANT theories that Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were assassinated in a drug-related Mafia hit have been deflated by the deadpan testimony of a Los Angeles detective.

Johnnie Cochran, O.J. Simpson's defence lawyer, was on a mission to discredit police methods and trustworthiness when Detective Tom Lange resumed the witness stand in the Simpson murder trial on Monday. But he elicited from the detective something close to ridicule.

When Mr Cochran asked the veteran, poker-faced investigator if he had considered whether Mr Goldman might have been targeted by hit-men, the response was one of open incredulity.

Mr Cochran then asked if Detective Lange had considered the possibility that anyone other than Mr Simpson could have carried out last June's killings.

The detective replied: "I had absolutely no other evidence that would point me in any other direction."

Defence lawyers meanwhile hope to exploit confessions in a book by Faye Resnick, a friend of Ms Brown's, that she and her circle used recreational drugs including cocaine.

Ms Resnick's book has not been allowed as evidence, forcing the defence into a tactic derided by members of Mr Goldman's family as "innuendo by cross-examination".

Mr Simpson denies killing Ms Brown and Mr Goldman. The trial continues today when another detective is due to be questioned.

Clinton considers easing Cuba sanctions

BY DAVID ADAMS
LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

IN THE hope of encouraging wider economic reforms in Cuba, Washington is discussing proposals to relax American pressure on President Castro.

But observers say such a move could put the White House on a collision course with a powerful anti-Castro lobby in Congress, led by the North Carolina Republican, Jesse Helms, the conservative hardliner who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mr Helms recently proposed a bill to toughen existing sanctions on Cuba, which has been attracting considerable support. Apparently seeking to relegate the impor-

ance of the policy shift, a White House spokesman said Mr Clinton had not studied the matter personally, adding that the proposals were modest.

The proposals would lift a ban on sending cash to relatives on the island, as well as easing severe travel restrictions, both sanctions imposed at the height of last summer's exodus of more than 30,000 people across the Florida strait.

The White House emphasised that this would not affect the nature of a wider economic embargo imposed more than 30 years ago during the Cuban missile crisis.

"There's no review or change in our view that the embargo of Cuba is an effective tool to convince Castro of the wisdom of political and economic

change," Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary said.

However, it is known that some Clinton advisers do not believe in the embargo. They support a bolder policy of trying to coax greater reforms out of Dr Castro by offering to lift the embargo in a calibrated fashion. They say it is time to test Dr Castro's reluctant acceptance of capitalist-style reform, and to see if he is prepared to consider political reforms.

Despite trying to lessen the impact of the proposals, Mr McCurry appeared to confirm that the Administration is considering a new initiative: "What we're trying to do is... see if there is some way we can encourage Castro to make these positive steps toward democracy and reform."

Pence look after themselves

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DON PENCE was a self-employed house painter and his wife Shirley worked as a secretary for an insurance company. But not any more.

Mrs Pence telephoned her boss in Phoenix, Arizona, to tell him she had received a better offer — a jackpot of \$101.8 million (£62.5 million) she and her husband won in the Powerball lottery, covering 17 states and Washington DC. After taxes, they will collect close to \$3.4 million a year for

20 years. Their odds of winning had been one in 55 million. It was America's fifth-largest lottery payout, the biggest being \$118.8 million won in California four years ago.

"We've worked hard all our lives and now we don't have to," said Mrs Pence, 55, announcing her immediate retirement. Her husband, 56, said he would be turning in his paint brushes. Before the win, the couple had worried that they would never have enough to stop working. Mrs Pence joined an insurance

agency in January after she was laid off by another company.

The couple, married for 38 years with one daughter and two grandchildren, bought \$5 of tickets from a grocery and let the computer pick their numbers.

Mrs Pence followed her custom of reading the prayer in her local paper before checking the lottery results printed below. The prayer had said: "Lord, you remind us that an unexpected task may hold a hidden blessing. Amen."



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Daughter claims Mandelas to divorce

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA and his estranged wife, Winnie, are "most likely" to divorce, according to their daughter, Zindzi. She said that elements within the African National Congress are putting pressure on him to cut ties with his wife.

Mrs Mandela-Hlongwane, 34, gives a series of insights into the relationship between the President and his wife, Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, in the black women's magazine, *Thandi*.

"My father and mother don't see each other any more," she said. "They never visit me at the same time. They don't speak to me about their problems, as if they don't exist for each other."

"The sad thing is that nobody realises that my father is very lonely. I often go to see him at his home and very

often I find him alone. Alone, eating at that big table." But she added that her father always supported her mother unconditionally. She also said she did not believe that the "Stompie affair", when Mrs Mandela was convicted of complicity in the kidnap and assault of 14-year-old Stompie Moeketsie Seipei, played any role in their breakup.

"The first time my father and mother spoke about divorce, he was still in prison. He believed my mother unconditionally. He thought that people tried to damage him through my mother."

"Officially they are not yet divorced. But most likely that will come about, for I sense pressure on him to distance himself definitely from her. It is people within the ANC who consider that to be better. Closing the Winnie Mandela period will also be an end to



President Mandela's predicament over his wife, Winnie, depicted by Dov Fedler of *The Star* in Johannesburg

the militant part of his life. That is their idea."

Mrs Mandela-Hlongwane, now married to a Johannesburg businessman, has four children, each by a different father. She was named by police after the recent police raid on her mother's house as a potential beneficiary of 50 per cent of the shares in a building contracting firm as a kickback for her mother's

influence in winning contracts for low-cost housing in the townships.

Mrs Mandela-Hlongwane insisted: "She still loves my father. The expression on her face when she hears something is going on about him ... it's panic, still."

Mrs Mandela is defying her husband's authority once again by refusing to meet Thabo Mbeki, the First Depu-

ty President who has been asked by the President to deal with the problem. A letter hand-delivered to Mr Mbeki informed him of her refusal to meet him until the court application challenging the validity of the police raid on her house has run its course.

Other people involved are beginning to run for cover. Sydney Mufamadi, Minister of Police, said that he had no

prior knowledge of the raid, adding: "It appears the manner in which the police conducted themselves during the search was rather dramatic. The drama was uncalculated." He said that he had instructed George Fivaz, the National Police Commissioner, to investigate. The inquiry will report on the manner of the raid and recommend how future searches should be conducted.

Israel tries to stop east Jerusalem visit by British minister

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE British Government has become embroiled in a diplomatic row with Israel, involving the status of Jerusalem, on the eve of John Major's visit to Israel and the autonomous Gaza Strip, which begins next Sunday.

Israeli sources said yesterday that diplomatic representations had been made to London in a bid to prevent a senior member of the Prime Minister's delegation, Douglas Hogg, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, from visiting Orient House, the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in annexed east Jerusalem.

In the meantime, senior Palestinian and Arab officials have been applying equal pressure on Whitehall to permit Mr Hogg's visit to the building, currently the office of Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO representative. They see such a visit as confirmation that Britain does not support Israel's annexation in 1967 of the Arab half of the holy city.

If Mr Hogg's visit proceeds as planned, it is expected to provoke fierce protests from Israel's right-wing opposition parties, which have repeatedly called on Yitzhak Rabin's Lab-

our Government to close down Orient House. The right-wing Hebrew paper *Haaretz* said yesterday that Britain had ignored Israeli representations and decided to go ahead with the visit.

But Richard Dalton, the British Consul-General in east Jerusalem, said yesterday that no decision had yet been taken. Referring all enquiries to London, he said that the British proposal had been "a subject for discussion [with the Israelis] in London".

The Israeli sources acknowledged that beyond diplomatic pressure, no measures could be imposed to prevent Mr Hogg's visit. Israel argues that as the British visitors are due to spend Tuesday in Gaza, where they will call on Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority chief, the visit to Orient House was unnecessary.

Israeli sources indicated that one way of resolving the dispute might be to call Mr Hogg's trip as a "courtesy visit", a tactic resorted to last month when three European Union Foreign Ministers, led by Alain Juppé of France, also insisted on visiting Orient House against the wishes of the Israeli Government.

Orthodox Jews try to ban gay films show

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AN ORTHODOX Jewish group has appealed to the Israeli Supreme Court in a last-minute bid to try and halt Jerusalem's first Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, due to open in the holy city tomorrow and run until Saturday.

Enuka Shamir, the festival organiser, said: "We have already heard rumours that ultra-Orthodox leaders are planning demonstrations." The festival is being staged at the Cinematheque overlooking the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. The organisers are determined to hold it "even if we must have police and private guards brought in".

Chaim Miller, the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem and leader of the Association for the Defence of Religious Rights, urged the court to ban the screening of about 30 films, beginning with David Cronenberg's 1993 release *J. Butterfly*. He said: "It is unacceptable to have such depravation on show in the holy city. We are not in Rome or Paris, or even Tel Aviv."

Earlier, Yitzhak Levy, a Knesset deputy from the opposition National Religious Party, sent an angry letter to Ehud Simert, the Mayor of Jerusalem, demanding that the festival be banned. He said the subject matter was not fit for the public. But Eyal Sher, the deputy director of the Cinematheque, said yesterday that there was no reason to halt the festival. "This is a democracy," he said.

Religious passions over the gradual granting of greater rights for gays exploded in the Knesset last month when Professor Nahum Rackover, Israel's Deputy Attorney-General, infuriated left-wing deputies in a speech in which he equated homosexuality with bestiality. The dispute occurred during a committee debate over a proposal by Yael Dayan, the daughter of the late war hero Moshe Dayan and Israel's leading campaigner for gay rights, to grant homosexual spouses pension rights in the civil service.

WORLD SUMMARY

Dog sniffs out drugs on Briton

Tokyo: A Briton has been arrested after a Japanese customs dog detected 7lbs of cannabis in his clothing, an official said yesterday.

Police estimated the drug would have fetched 26 million yen (£172,000) in street sales. An official identified the arrested man as Sidney Alfred Clark, 44, of London. He was held at Tokyo's international airport where dogs are trained to sit down beside a passenger when they smell drugs. He faces a maximum penalty of seven years in prison. (AP)

Spain admits papers forged

Madrid: Spain has acknowledged that forged documents were used in the extradition from Laos on corruption charges of Luis Roldán, the fugitive former head of the Civil Guard, but insisted that the arrest had been "perfectly legal". Juan Alberto Belloch, the Justice Minister, said he was guilty of a "mistake in communication policy" by failing to disclose earlier that the documents were forged. (AFP)

Bid to save food Scott left behind

Wellington: A cache of food left by Robert Falcon Scott, the British explorer, in Antarctica 77 years ago may have succumbed to the polar elements, but a bid will be made to save it. Parts of the cache have been taken to Scott Base, New Zealand's main polar base. Paul Chaplin, the Antarctic Heritage Trust officer, said. (AFP)

Hong dong

Hong Kong: China is to build a 99-tonne bronze bell, the world's largest, in Hong Kong to ring in the takeover of the British territory. The bell, known as Huaxia Dazhong, will be completed by the end of 1996 and will be tolled on July 1, 1997 when Peking regains sovereignty. (AFP)

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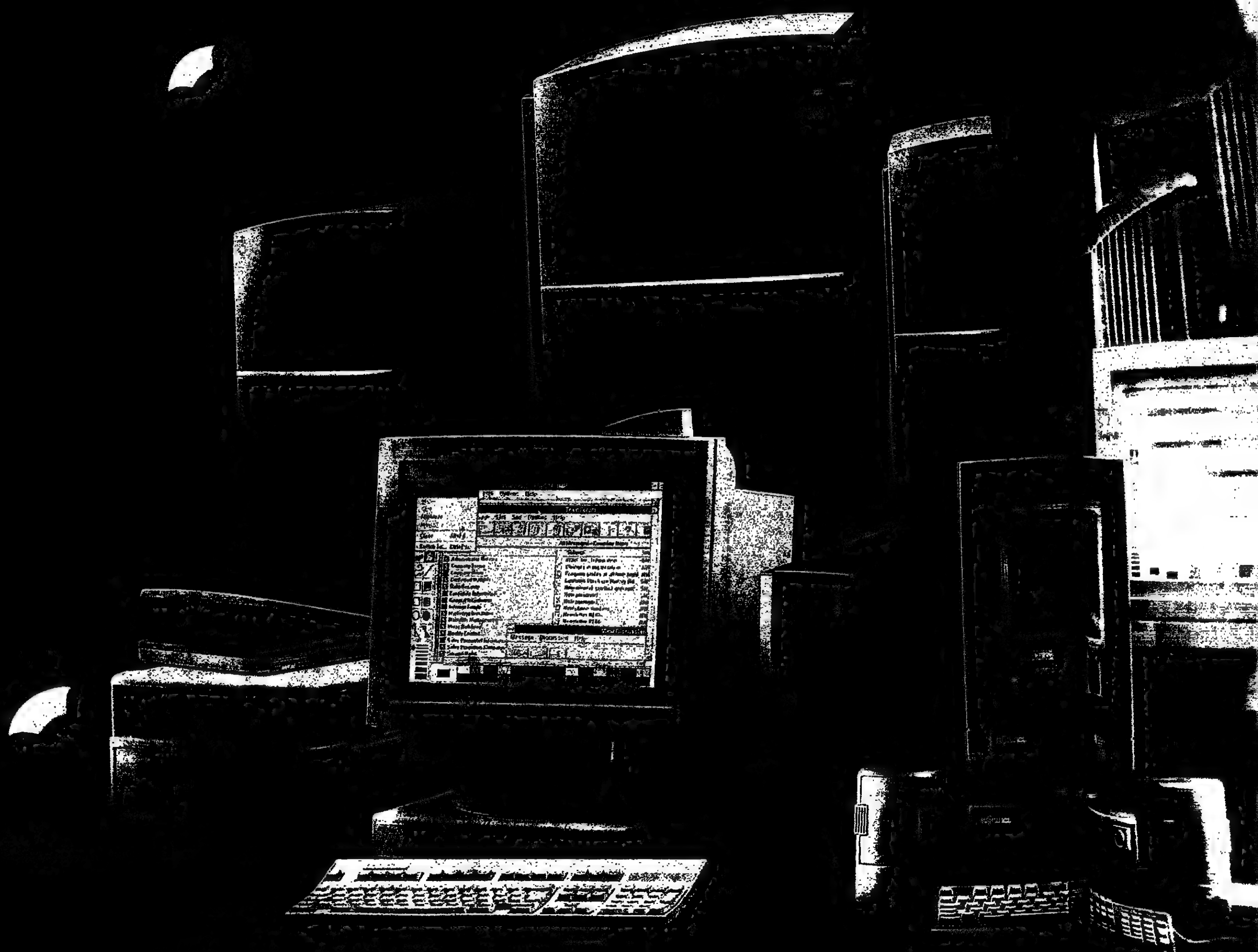
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German strikers' victory sets tone for pay settlements

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN unions and employers yesterday agreed a wage increase of just under 4 per cent, allowing the country to step back from a strike that could have crippled the economy.

The deal, clinched after a 19-hour bargaining session between Bavarian metal workers and their employers, is expected to set the tone not only for pay rises in the large engineering sector, but also in German banking, the Civil Service, chemicals and construction. It was immediately hailed as a big success by Klaus Zwickel, the head of the powerful IG Metall union. Employers were less enthusiastic but pointed out that the increase was to be stretched over two years, reducing its impact.

According to the terms of the deal, the 700,000 metal and engineering workers in Bavaria will receive an increase of 152 marks (£64) a month for the period between January and April 1995. From May 1, salaries will increase by 3.4 per cent and from November 1 by a further 3.6 per cent. The new wage contract will be valid until the end of 1996.

IG Metall had initially demanded a 6 per cent wage hike. The employers refused to present any offer until the union agreed to some flexible working practices. The unions

launched strikes in dozens of factories in Bavaria, a southern state that boasts much of Germany's high-technology industries, including Daimler, Aerospace, BMW and Siemens, and found there was a great deal of public sympathy for their protest.

Small supplying companies, only just edging out of recession, started to panic and urged the main engineering employers federation to settle quickly. And so the employers eventually abandoned any attempt at securing a more elastic approach to work. Both employers and unions have now agreed to a 35-hour working week without any loss of pay.

"Nobody can be 100 per cent satisfied with a compromise," said Rainer Hildmann, the employers' negotiator. He regretted that the unions had not helped to ease the high cost of German labour and have therefore done little towards making Germany more competitive.

This could have been a wage round dedicated to creating jobs rather than increasing pay packets, Herr Hildmann complained. As the deal was struck, German unemployment figures for February were released yesterday and showed that the number of jobless has dropped, despite the winter. The number of Germans officially out of work

is now 3.8 million, 215,000 less than February last year. This represents an unemployment rate of 9.9 per cent compared with 10.5 per cent a year ago.

Stretching the pay settlement over two years will allow managers, especially of medium-size and smaller companies, to make reliable plans for the year ahead. And the upholding of Germany's traditional consensus model of wage bargaining will ease labour relations in the coming months.

Discussions about flexible working hours are now likely to happen outside the wage round. The main driving force is likely to be the threat of unemployment. When Volkswagen said it would have to phase out 30,000 workers, the unions swiftly agreed to a four-day working week and saved the jobs. Yesterday Herr Hildmann declared that "the cost of the wage rise could soon be felt in the form of rationalisation and further redundancy".

As far as workers were concerned, the hero of the day was Werner Neugebauer, the union negotiator. "IG Metall has kept its word, we have achieved our fundamental strike goals," he said yesterday. The strikes in some 30 Bavarian factories are continuing meanwhile until the deal has been formally approved by the work force.

Jospin would tax capital to fund jobs

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Socialist's presidential candidate, yesterday ended a fruitful period of inactivity to outline a resolutely left-wing, European programme.

For the past month M Jospin, 57, has been a passive but gleeful spectator to the feuding of his Gaullist rivals, Edouard Balladur and Jacques Chirac. He knows, however, that with his call yesterday for political union within Europe and for a "tax on speculation", he will be pitched into the rough and tumble of the fray.

The former Education Minister has been quietly trying to transform himself into a credible aspirant. His efforts were plainly visible yesterday. Gone were his glasses with multi-coloured frames, replaced by sober rimless spectacles. Also absent were his double-breasted jackets, which had given way to a dark blue suit and a red tie.

The 50-page manifesto mentioned President Mitterrand just once in a send-off notable for its lack of enthusiasm. Only on Europe did the candidate place himself firmly in Mitterrand's slipstream, arguing for an extension of majority voting to all areas in which the European Union has decision-making powers.

M Jospin said the single European currency should be introduced as soon as possible, although the 1997 deadline was no longer realistic.

His domestic policies are likely to prove most controversial, however. In a throwback to Mitterrand's early days in the Elysée and a clear break with his party's policies over the past seven years, M Jospin said: "The economy must be placed at the service of man, and not man at the service of the economy."

This meant a cut in the working week from 39 to 37 hours, a refusal to scale down France's expensive social security system, a public sector job creation programme and a reduction in the payroll taxes on low salaries that many see as the main cause of the 12.6 per cent unemployment rate.

M Jospin said these measures would be financed by a new tax on short-term movements of international capital and the extension of income tax to capital earnings.



Emotions show on the faces of two US veterans yesterday as they recall the battle for the Remagen Bridge

Veterans recall shock of Remagen battle

FROM ROGER BOYES IN REMAGEN

MICHAEL CHINCHER raised his hand in soldierly salute as the American and German flags were paraded yesterday in front of the remains of the Remagen Bridge which 50 years ago was the scene of a dramatic battle for the Rhine.

"It was fantastic, the bridge was still standing," said the bespectacled Armoured Division veteran. "We never imagined that the bridge could still be there but when we saw it and took it, we were over."

Neither Mr Chinchler nor his former enemies, such as the Germans' Flak (anti-aircraft) soldier Heinz Schwarz, were in any doubt that the taking of Remagen Bridge



A photograph taken from a spotter plane captures the smoke of battle hanging over the bridge 50 years ago

was a decisive turning point in the war in Western Europe. Herr Schwarz still seemed to be suffering from some of the shock of that day. Even now the German side of the Rhine

the steep 600ft flat cliff-face of Erpel, looks impenetrable. "We were sure nothing could happen to us," said Herr Schwarz, shaking his head. On paper, the Germans

defending the bridge had more than 1,000 men at their disposal, but only a company of 36 experienced men could be relied upon. By the time that US Lieutenant Karl Timmermann had sprinted over the bridge — the first allied officer across the Rhine — he was swamped by German soldiers wanting to surrender.

Brass bands played and prayers were said yesterday for the dead in both German and English. After brief speeches, on a sunny but cold day, the few hundred veterans and well-wishers started to cross the river — by ferry. The bridge, which collapsed ten days after its capture, has never been rebuilt.

British resolve, page 7
Leading article, page 19

Yeltsin rival threatens to quit

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW



Luzhkov: says Yeltsin acted unlawfully

YURI LUZHKOV, Moscow's powerful Mayor, yesterday threatened to resign unless the Kremlin reinstated two key city law enforcement officers sacked by President Yeltsin for failing to halt the capital's crime wave.

In a potentially explosive showdown the Mayor, tipped by many as a likely successor to the Russian President, said that he would quit unless the sackings were reversed.

Vladimir Pankratov, a Police General, and Gennadi Ponomarev, the Prosecutor-General, were dismissed by President Yeltsin on Monday

after last week's mafia-style murder of a television personality.

The President laid much of the blame for the murder on the Moscow authorities, who have been accused of failing to control organised crime.

However, Mr Luzhkov, has insisted that his officers were being made scapegoats and suggested the sackings were made to undermine his authority.

Yesterday he made an unprecedented attack on the Kremlin leadership and accused President Yeltsin of acting unlawfully.

UN expulsion threatens Balkans with worst conflict yet

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS Serbs and Croats prepare to fight each other across both Bosnia and Croatia at the same time, a conflict is looming in the former Yugoslavia that promises to be even more catastrophic and unmanageable than the battles of the past four years.

The spark expected to ignite the new war is the expected expulsion of United Nations peacekeepers from Croatia after their mandate expires, which means they are unlikely to be present this time to provide succour to civilian victims. President Tudjman of Croatia is angry that the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) in the former Yugoslavia has not disarmed the rebellious break-away Serbs in the Krajina region of his republic.

As a result, he says he will not renew the UN mandate, which expires at the end of the month. If he refuses to relent, and Western diplomats are still trying to negotiate at least some form of UN presence, the peacekeepers must leave Croatia by the end of June.

Dr Tudjman's threat prompted General Ratko Mladic, the hardline Bosnian

Serb commander, to threaten at the weekend to demand UN withdrawal from Sarajevo and the UN-protected enclaves in eastern Bosnia if UN troops do leave Croatia.

Krestimir Zubak, a Croat who heads the Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia, yesterday vowed that Bosnian Croat forces would fight rebel Serbs in Croatia in any new war there. Irfan Ljubijankic, the Bosnian Foreign Minister, said that, for its part, his Government would resume fighting if peace talks failed.

All sides want more territory than they now have. They also know they can probably gain it by force faster than by negotiations and that the international community is powerless to stop them.

Mr Zubak said in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, that Bosnian Croat forces "cannot be passive if the rebel [Serb] forces in Croatia take offensive action against Croatian armed forces ... because military action would spread to Bosnia-Herzegovina". Croats and Bosnians had to be prepared for the possibility of a new war against Serbs in both coun-

tries, he said. The consequences of the peacekeepers' withdrawal from Croatia would certainly be catastrophic: the rebel Serbs living in the Krajina region of the republic would feel threatened as well as abandoned, and would probably intensify their

struggle to link up with Serbs in Bosnia and Serbia. The Krajina Serbs have already come to the aid of Serbs in Bosnia in trying to expel Muslim forces from the Bihac pocket, and they would expect some reciprocal help from the Bosnian Serbs in any new

fighting with Zagreb's forces. All sides seem to be pretending to shudder at the prospect of the coming conflagration while in reality arming themselves to the teeth. They are forging alliances which already cross the border between Bosnia and Croatia and

threaten to expand the conflict. Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia formed a pact in February to come to one another's aid, an agreement which is likely to stand the test of time. On Monday, Croats in the two republics promised to do the same, although their pledge

may not be as strong. The Croat alliance is complicated by the federation formed between the Muslims and Croats in Bosnia, an agreement which was really a shotgun marriage forced on the two sides by America.

Mr Ljubijankic, on a two-day visit to Britain, delivered a warning to Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, reportedly saying that "if there is no further progress in the peace process, the Bosnian Government would be unable to renew the cessation of hostilities agreement (brokered by Jimmy Carter, the former US President, in December) and would have to resort to military measures".

President Milosevic of Serbia, the man most responsible for the war in the first place, sits aloof in Belgrade. The five-nation Contact Group wants him formally to recognise Bosnia and Croatia in exchange for a further lifting of sanctions against his regime. So far, however, he has refused to yield. He alone of the Balkan leaders can afford to sit and wait — and risk a new conflagration.

TO THE fury of European Union officials, the Greek Government yesterday set out to block a landmark agreement between the Union and Turkey, which it had agreed hours before.

George Mangalkis, the Greek European Affairs Minister, wrote to Alain Juppé, the current president of the EU Foreign Ministers, yesterday to say that he considers a deal setting up an EU-Turkey customs union to be "suspended".

The Greeks took exception to a speech by Murat Karayalcin, the Turkish Foreign Minister, who said Greece had no business sponsoring Cyprus's application for EU membership while the island was divided. If EU talks were opened, he said, Turkey "will be left with no option but to take steps towards achieving a similar integration with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". Athens said this was a threat to annex part of the island.

Greeks stop EU deal with Turkey

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

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حکومت الاصل

Seoul offers peace troops for seat on Security Council

SOUTH KOREA is ready to deploy its troops in support of United Nations peacekeeping operations if it wins a seat as a temporary member of the United Nations Security Council.

President Kim Young Sam pledged his country's full participation in UN activities and the backing of its 660,000 troops on the eve of his arrival here, a visit that the Koreans see as vital in launching their country into the first rank of nations.

High on the agenda is winning British support for the coveted Security Council seat, which should go to Sri Lanka as the next Asian representative. Interviewed at the Korean presidential palace, the Blue House, a target for North Korean commandos, the President was clearly reeling in the fruits of a life of extraordinary political struggle that has included long periods of house arrest, hunger strike and even a clandestine mountain climb-

David Watts last saw Kim Young Sam through a cloud of tear gas in 1987. Since then the former dissident, who visits Britain today, has led South Korea to dominance among Asian democracies

ing association as cover for democratic political activity under martial law.

As leader of a democratic state, President Kim believes not only that South Korea is ready to look the mother of parliaments in the eye, but can also claim Seoul's right to a Security Council seat. In any event Korea, he feels, owes a debt of gratitude to the world body for rescuing it from Communist domination during the Korean War.

"I think the British Government can exercise significant influence in the resolution of this matter because of its existing links with Commonwealth countries and because of the British Government's

status in the international community," he said. Noting that Sri Lanka had been on the Security Council before, President Kim said the timing would be "significant in several aspects".

"First of all, we are fully prepared to contribute to international peace and security through an active role in the UN, including peacekeeping operations. Second, the inter-Korean relationship is now very delicate and if we become a member of the United Nations Security Council we can more effectively contribute to the peaceful resolution of North Korea's nuclear issue. But most of all we are fully prepared to contribute to the resolution of the problems that the global village is faced with in terms of poverty, disease and other welfare issues."

Korea will join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development next year, lifting it out of its intermediary status between the developing and developed world, and is pressing hard for its candidature, Kim Chul Soo, to become the first Secretary-General of the new World Trade Organisation. This reflects the ambitions of a country which boasts an increasingly powerful economy and whose conglomerates are now thrusting out across the world much as Japan's did a decade ago.

By the end of the decade Pohang, Korea's top steel maker, plans to eclipse Nippon Steel as the world's biggest manufacturer, and the country's three leading car makers plan to double their production to six million units. Britain is already the largest recipient of Korean investment in the European Union and the President intends that his visit should also boost EU two-way trade, which runs at \$23.5 billion (£15 billion) a year.

Korea is home to some of the world's most successful shipbuilders and computer chip makers, and President Kim believes that his country has overtaken Japan in its democratisation and in cleaning up the sometimes murky connections between business and government.

Seoul: North Korea warned yesterday that a nuclear deal with America would collapse unless Washington drops plans to give it South Korean-made reactors. The warning came two days before an American-led international consortium was to be inaugurated to underwrite the accord. (AP)

Focus on South Korea. Special Supplement



Kim: drastic military reform democratised society

Dissident develops taste for autocracy

THE first thing President Kim Young Sam did on taking office was to remove all the commanders of the armed forces (David Watts writes).

With the historical record against him, the country held its breath for the apparently inevitable backlash from an army that is among the toughest in the world.

"I wasn't afraid of a coup," President Kim now says. "I was very sure that drastic reform of the military would democratised the Korean military and therefore Korean society."

It was that sort of determination that has kept him in politics, despite years of harassment and repression by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. It is the sort of determination, too, that sees him rise at 5am every day to jog four miles round a track outside the presidential palace, despite his 68 years.

In an extraordinary political gesture, he joined forces with his erstwhile political enemies to form a new political party, the Democratic Liberal Party, from which he has recently purged his oldest ally. Many believe he will soon move to revise the constitution to permit a second term in office.

He has cleared the Government and bureaucracy of officials deemed corrupt or inefficient. All business and property deals must be in the real names of the participants while Seoul drivers may use their cars only on certain days to ease congestion.

But equally, ministers can now lose their jobs at the whim of their leader. President Kim looks increasingly autocratic in the classic Korean mould. There are even whispers that he will soon have trouble filling ministerial seats unless politicians can expect more job security. Of more concern is his tendency to dismiss North Korea as a leaderless and irrelevant state, following what is regarded as a cardinal error in not sending a representative to Kim Il Sung's funeral.

Japanese issue Bali travel alert

Tokyo: Mystery is deepening in Japan over a cholera epidemic among Japanese tourists returning from Bali, but which has so far not affected other foreign visitors to the Indonesian resort island (Gwen Robinson writes).

Indonesians insist that "no-body has ever contracted cholera in Bali", but Japan has issued travel warnings and a report based on more than 300 documented cases of Japanese tourists who contracted cholera or its symptoms.

No deaths have been reported, but the scare is affecting the lucrative Japanese tourist industry to Indonesia. The report said that the number of cholera cases in Japan had reached its highest level since the end of the Second World War, when more than 1,240 soldiers returned from Asian jungles with the disease. The present victims have returned from Bali since February 6.

An Indonesian spokesman said officials had been sent to the island to investigate.

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ADAMAL

Esteemed linguists tackle bastion of Indian verbosity

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

IT IS not unusual in India to receive an official letter signed by a humble and respectful government servant who asks for an early and fulsome response to his enquiries, in order that he may be in a position to do the needful.

Invitations to weddings and other special events are liable to "solicit your valuable presence to grace the occasion", or "to beg the favour of your esteemed presence". Nowhere in the English-speaking world are there more honoured and esteemed personages than in India, which has developed Victorian formality into an over-the-top art form.

The newly-formed Plain Language Commission of Tamil Nadu, in southern India, hates it. "Even business correspondence is covered in a smokescreen of complicated English," says V. Ramamurthy, a consultant who is preparing to launch a three-week "simple English" evening course in Madras for business executives.

The executives will pay more than £50 to be told not to abuse themselves in letter-writing—or, as Michael Curtis of Britain's Plain Language Commission put it, to "stop grovelling". He was in India a few months ago conducting courses at the invitation of the Federation of Consumer Organisations, based in Tamil

Nadu. One of the aims of the federation is to tidy the turgid prose of English-language legal documents, which can ramble for 200 words between fullstops. It also tackles misleading advertisements. The formation of the Plain Language Commission grew from this campaign.

Mr Ramamurthy said: "We do not want to change the Indian-ness of English; we simply want to eliminate the Victorian hangover of verbosity." He complained that Indian newspapers were bastions of "English" verbosity, citing an example: "He was conveyed to his place of residence in a state of alcoholic intoxication", for which read, "He was taken home drunk."

The Delhi-based International Journalists' Forum has just sent invitations to a conference next month written in "English", as the smokescreen style is now known. It reads: "You are requested to inform about your presence in this conference by a return mail so that we are on the comfortable side to make necessary arrangements for you." Invites are, of course, solicited to provide their valuable presence to grace the occasion.

□ Poll violence: At least 11 people died in election-related violence in India's southern Andhra Pradesh and eastern Bihar states. (Reuters)



Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen of India, achieving her ambition to meet Mother Teresa in Calcutta yesterday. Miss Sen has provoked controversy among conservative Indians by expressing opinions on such issues as abortion

Lahore murder signals spread of sectarian war

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

GUNMEN killed the leader of a militant Shia Muslim organisation in Lahore yesterday, escalating a war of terror against Pakistan's religious minorities. Religious killings have averaged 150 a month this year, most of them in Karachi, the financial capital.

The carnage continued even through the holy month of Ramadan, which ended last Thursday. The Government has rejected advice by army and senior government officials to ban extremist religious groups, leaving police with the impossible job of keeping rival factions apart.

Muhammad Ali Naqvi, the head of Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan, a pro-Iranian group, was shot in broad daylight in his car. Members of the organisation protested in Lahore's main road after the killing, firing guns into the air, burning tyres and throwing stones. The group has been locked in a tit-for-tat vendetta with a rival Sunni Muslim organisation for months.

The Government has ordered the arrest of several extremists on both sides and hundreds of others have gone underground to avoid detention. Sunni-Shia violence was previously a preserve of Punjab province, of which Lahore is the capital, but it has now brought Karachi to the point of collapse. More than 900 died in religious and ethnic violence in the city last year.

Karachi is also a victim of fighting between Sindhis and

non-Sindhis, turning it into an urban battlefield. Snipers have shot dead many policemen from the rooftops, forcing the police to retreat from the streets and take refuge behind sandbag bunkers.

Shias form 20 per cent of the population. Sunni extremism was fanned by President General Muhammad Zia, the former dictator, in the mid-1980s when he funded them to build a power base among the Islamic right wing. The new generation of militants, awash in guns and drugs money, are contemptuous of electoral politics. Many are gangsters posing as religious crusaders.

Mr Naqvi mobilised Shias all over Pakistan to fight the Sunni onslaught. His group has been accused of attacking Sunni mosques in reprisal for shootings at Shia places of worship. A month ago, as Shias were worshipping at a Karachi mosque, gunmen sprayed them with bullets, killing eight and wounding 17. Fundamentalist groups accuse the Government of fomenting religious strife to weaken the Islamic movement. The Government has banned foreign funding of religious parties and their schools, a measure that will doubtless be ignored.

The Government's failure to end the anarchy has angered the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It wants members to stop advertising on state radio and television in protest.

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A course in working for charity bridges the gap between traditional volunteers and high-flyers with soul. Libby Purves reports

Five years ago this winter, on a hunch, a charity consultant started running courses entitled Working For A Charity. Susanna Cheal herself had been a corporate executive, a full-time mother, a volunteer and a paid charity consultant, and felt that there were bridges to be built between these worlds.

Charities, growing more professional every day, were dipping into the pool of commercial executives and even (to the dismay of traditionalists) using headhunters; meanwhile a lot of their volunteers were able women, thinking of returning to work but often without the confidence to see themselves as paid workers. She began a course of seminars, combined with work experience in charity offices: her prediction to me on these pages (this being gung-ho 1989 when Mr Lawson was still unassailable) was that women would be hot commodities in the Nineties owing to a skill shortage, with everyone chasing women returning to work.

That, of course, did not happen. The recession, however, did. And with it came an atmosphere of weary disillusionment among many commercial executives, and a set of middle crises rather like the one dreamt up by the TV scriptwriters for Zoë Wamaker in *Love Hurts*. In which such executives walk out on the perks and do something "real". With charities squeezed and anxious to manage every penny as hawkishly as any multinational, they were welcomed. Since the predicted

"women returners" and ex-volunteers also came. Ms Cheal's courses doubled in size and more than 350 people have been trained, half of whom now work in charities. At the courses you now find high-flyers from BP and BT sitting side by side with hesitant volunteer housewives hoping for some modest responsibility. Next week, Working For A Charity celebrates its fifth birthday.

All of which provides a wonderful opportunity to consider whether these worlds are now so very different. Do hawks from ICI feel caged and restless in the gentler, touchy-feely world of charity? Do they annoy people with their commanding ideas? Can you, in these days of computer-targeted mailshots and multi-million pound fundraising, really sense the difference between charities founded on the simple idea of giving without return?

Ask Gillian Smithson, now at Save the Children but formerly a high-flyer at WH Smith and Our Price records (more like Lure-the-Children). "I wanted," she says typically, "a kinder environment." She found it, and still maintains that the voluntary sector is "more caring" about the people who work in it. "Everyone is strongly motivated by the work, and that bubbles through, even though SCF is such a giant



Training charity workers: Susanna Cheal, left, and Frances Meegan of the Who Cares? Trust

that it does have similar structural lines to a business."

She also finds that even junior staff are far more willing to speak out and disagree with policy than they would in a commercial concern. "So everything gets discussed a great deal more," says Ms Smithson. Which would, of course, drive many corporate executives mad? "Er... yes. OK. I admit it. I had to tone down my style enormously. Caring and sharing is great, but things can take a hell of

a long time." Still, for women in particular there is the advantage that a children's charity can hardly be obstructive to mothers. "Come half-term, the corridors at SCF are full of racing children. Doesn't make us any less efficient, though," she adds, crisply.

This rather feminine side of charities can also come as a surprise to some of the men. Ms Cheal's courses have trained as many men as women, rather to her surprise: one or two of them

were so senior in their original jobs that charities sprang on them during their work-experience and never let them go. Patrick Hodson of ICI was sent for four weeks training to the National Eczema Society — "I couldn't even spell it" — and is still there, now as a paid executive.

He finds all sorts of differences. "There are all these women, in very high positions in the charity world whereas — may as well admit it — at places like ICI and

BP the men do run the show. So you have to get used to women's style, which is different. I like it a lot. The other big difference is the relationship between the board, the trustees, and the executive. A charity board is voluntary, and sometimes lags behind an energetic director and executives. It doesn't have the pushing attitudes of paid company directors. You need to get used to that. And then there's the question of investment — you have to invest in order to grow, but everything you spend on the organisation itself gets seen as depriving your clients, the patients, of direct support."

This attitude was reported by others, too. Not many public benefactors go as far as Mother Teresa, who banned her co-workers' organisation from raising or having any money at all because they must trust in God, but one charity executive sighed: "You have no idea how hard it is to persuade them to buy new PCs, even when it's vital, because they're totally focused on spending the money on rice and medicine. But you can't deliver the rice or the medicine without proper organisation, can you? We bite our tongues a lot."

The courses stress that nothing in your new job will be lush. Farewell to high salaries, expense accounts and prestige offices. But

Frances Meegan, formerly of BT and now working for the Who Cares? Trust, muses on a less obvious loss. "Even though it is a world where people are nicer to one another, you may find that there isn't the same interest in developing employees and their careers. The people in the organisation often get sidelined."

Around even the most modern, professional charity there still hang the ghosts of those dedicated figures who stuffed envelopes for 40 years and never asked for a thank you, let alone a rise. "You can," said one young worker who preferred not to be named, "be made to feel selfish if you ask for anything at all, even though it's your whole life and livelihood. But you can see how it happens."

And, unless perhaps you join the top few of Britain's 170,000 registered charities, don't expect much prestige. Patrick Hodson is relaxed about his personal status, but warns others: "Say you're at Barclay's Bank or ICI headquarters — everyone nods and gives you your due. Say you're with the National Eczema Society and people give you quizzical looks and think of village bazaars and jumble sales." Unless, of course, they have eczema in the family. And then, they're all over you.

Which is, in the end, the compensation. People, not just shareholders, need you.

Working For A Charity is at 44-46 Cavendish Road, London NW5 2DS. Non-profit making organisations please send an A4-SAE for information and application forms.

'Anyone can be lured by a cult'

Joanna Pitman on a don intrepid enough to explore new religions

For someone who has spent the past 25 years living on and off with the Moonies, chanting with the Hare Krishnas, absorbing the teachings of the Church of Satan, New Ageism, Neo-Paganism and a string of other religions, one almost expects to find cranial horns and a forked tail attached to Eileen Barker.

While she has many adversaries who do indeed regard her as the Devil incarnate, she is actually a mild-mannered professor of sociology at the London School of Economics. Were she in the black chair facing Magnus Magnusson, she would state her specialist subject as "the sociology of religion with particular reference to new religious movements and cults".

It is an issue of growing interest and relevance in these dark, pre-millennial days. The very idea of religious cults scares most parents out of their skins, yet most of us assume that only underprivileged and unstable homes provide hunting grounds for new recruits.

It is a shock, therefore, to hear Professor Barker's identification of a typical candidate for cultish seduction. "These cults appeal to the young, mainly those of above-average education and intelligence, generally from good, middle-class or upper-middle class homes, psychologically fairly well adjusted. Some are from over-protective homes and need to make a statement. They have been brought up as a big fish in a small pond and when they cannot succeed in the real world, they seek solace in an alternative family of understanding religious believers."

Some will derive self-esteem and a taste of the exotic from membership of a group in search of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. For others,

visions of apathy and hypocrisy in the orthodox church, or simply too many blue rinses packing the pews, provide the incentive to shop elsewhere for their spiritual succour.

"With increased social and geographical mobility, the range of cults has grown from those based on a Judeo-Christian tradition to all sorts of new movements," Professor Barker says. There is the universally recognisable lunatic fringe — the flying saucer worshippers, self-styled "atheistic religions" and cults that receive energy beamed from outer space. There are movements tied up with ecology and feminism. In fact any trend that can be harnessed into a movement has been.

And now there is even a "prosperity theology" designed to help members become good capitalists, but only, of course, after they have made generous contributions to the celestial bodies and temporal bank accounts of its leaders.

Professor Barker lists 1,600 new religious movements operating in Britain on the books of Inform, an organisation she founded in 1988, backed by the Home Office and the Church of England, aimed at providing objective information on religious cults to worried parents, counsellors, the clergy or potential members. "A lot of new religions offer enormous benefits, a sense of belonging, direction in life, a feeling of making a worthwhile contribution. Plenty of them are positive and constructive. It's not true that they all brainwash members and have sexual orgies."

Professor Barker believes that media sensationalism, anti-cultists (often as fanatical as cultists themselves) and ill-informed counsellors have contributed to damaging misinformation about cults and a



Eileen Barker: "It's not true that they all brainwash members and have sexual orgies"

widespread view of them as hotbeds of corruption and depravity. But there are some cults that do pretty nasty things. "The most dangerous are those that cut off their members from the outside world, either physically or psychologically. Some cults don't allow any questions — doubting the hotline to God is seen as betrayal."

Sensible and informed awareness has become paramount in dealing with today's plethora of cults and any parent of a child "lost" to one would feel in good hands with Professor Barker. Calm and shrewd, she has the steady wisdom of an academic and a flair for detecting deceit, wool-pulling and chicanery. When not familiarising herself with the chanting habits of the Soka Gakkai or studying occult literature in rags of blood, she writes books and papers on

subjects such as brainwashing and deprogramming.

She has an intrepid streak in her, too. She recently risked her neck in a bombing attack in Azerbaijan, where she went to study the exploitation of religion in the war. Last week, a fax summoned her to address the Parliament in Moscow from authorities fearful of an invasion of benevolent cults, and the week before she was in Sofia to give a talk on the expected impact of new religions in Eastern Europe.

Professor Barker has had some bruising encounters with cults that are convinced she is betraying them. "My aim is to allay fears and alert people to potential difficulties. But I have to meet them and get to know them. I end up being loved by neither outsiders nor insiders."

She has never had any difficulty resisting the appeal of cults herself. "I have never considered joining any of

them. They're not nearly as exotic as they seem. And so far, I have never lost any of my students either." (She makes it clear that papers will be marked down if students show signs of wanting to join.)

For those of us who sneer at these disagreeable doctrines from a distance, there may be a rude awakening on the horizon. Professor Barker points out that a number of leading British corporations have started sending their middle managers on self-development courses loosely based on religious cults.

"The idea is to rid yourself of blockages and hang-ups, get at your inner self and become empowered to work better together as a team." Participants are required to discuss their childhood. "It's amazing what comes out. You get the pinstripes bursting into tears all over the place. Nobody is ever quite the same again." Consider yourself warned.

Optimism rules in our wilderness

In the second extract from his book, Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, argues that we rely on a moral tradition

The hope of the Enlightenment was of open-ended progress. Its central metaphor was science. Through freedom, experimentation, reason and inquiry, we could achieve mastery not only over the natural world but also over humanity and our multiple strivings. However, as the 20th century nears its close, we have discovered that science has brought as many problems as solutions. Used industrially it has eroded our environment. Used militarily it has given us an unprecedented capacity for destruction. Used politically it has created totalitarianisms. Allied to ancient hatreds it produced the Holocaust, the most controlled and systematic attempt at genocide ever undertaken. We have come to realise the presence of limits: to the indefinite expansion of economies, to the power of reason to control human passion and prejudice, and to the ability of governments and markets to solve social problems.

More importantly we have begun to recognise the importance of human relationships and the environment in which they take place. Enlightenment thought paid scant attention to the framework of personal relationships: to families and communities and to the rules, rituals and traditions that sustained them. These things were, after all, unscientific. Our communities and traditions are inescapably local and idiosyncratic. They are where we become people in particular, not humanity in the abstract. As a result they simply fail to register on the Enlightenment map, with its obsessive focus on what was universal and therefore rational. Whatever failed this test was dismissed as myth and prejudice, the subjective imposition of individual will. Thus began the disintegration of those institutions within which human beings have, since the birth of history, found meaning and identity through their relationships with others and membership in a community. Humanity in the abstract has proved to be too abstract to be human.

Thinkers such as Alasdair MacIntyre, author of *After Virtue*, and Robert Bellah, author of *Habits of the Heart: Middle America Observed*, have been signalling for some time that the process cannot continue without severe damage to society. What should be our response?

First should be a principled rejection of despair. Just as the optimism of the Enlightenment proved to be exaggerated, so too will the pessimism of those who speak today of the "new dark ages". At the heart of biblical faith is a series of



'Our communities are where we become people in particular, not humanity in the abstract'

Dr Jonathan Sacks

images — Noah after the flood, Job after his trials, Isaiah contemplating the destruction of Jerusalem — which testify to the unbroken human capacity to rebuild life after disaster. Our moral and religious beliefs have been damaged by two centuries of assault, but they are not beyond repair. They are never beyond repair. What made the prophets of the Bible eternal spokesmen of the human condition is that beyond every warning of catastrophe they discerned a distant horizon of hope. Jeremiah, in the midst of prophesying the defeat of Jerusalem, bought a field there as a gesture of his conviction that Jews would one day return; and they did return. In those who undertake to guide us through the wilderness, pessimism is an abdication of responsibility and we must reject it.

No less importantly, we must reject the absurd test the Enlightenment imposed on religious and moral beliefs, namely that only if they were universal could they be true. As anthropologists began to uncover the full diversity of human behaviour, philosophers drew the conclusion that since many of our deepest convictions about humanity were not universal, they must be false. This is a fallacy and deserves to be challenged.

Moralities are like languages. We are born into them and we must learn them if we are to communicate and have

relationships with others. Like languages, moralities embody ancient and living social processes. We do not invent them by our individual choices. Instead, by learning them we take our part in a particular tradition which long preceded us and which will continue long after we are no longer here. Like language, morality testifies to the paradox that only by yielding to something which is not individual can we become individuals. There is nothing unique about a baby's cry. There is something unique about Shakespeare's sonnets. It takes a long apprenticeship in the rules of grammar and semantics before we express what we alone wish to say. Only by a similar apprenticeship in the rules and virtues of a moral tradition can we shape the life that we alone are called on to live.

Like languages, moralities are not universal. But neither are they the product of private and personal choice. We can no more sustain relationships without shared rules of fidelity and trust than we can sustain communication without shared rules of grammar. And without a stable framework of relationships we are left confused, vulnerable and alone.

Ultimately, of course, moralities are more than languages. They make claims upon us. The key word in biblical ethics is *brit*, or "covenant". In a covenant, parties come together to pledge themselves to a code of mutual loyalty and protection. Like a contract, a covenant is born in the recognition that no individual can achieve his or her ends in isolation. Because we are different, we each have strengths that others need, and weaknesses that others can remedy.

Unlike a contract, however, a covenant involves a commitment to go beyond the letter of the law, and to sustain the relationship even at times when it seems to go against the interests of one of the parties. As Daniel Elazar puts it: "In its heart of hearts, a covenant is an agreement in which a higher moral force, traditionally God, is either a direct party to or a guarantor of a particular relationship."

The more we become aware of the dangers of limitless freedom, the more we will search for moral rather than mere technical guidance. Moral codes, for so long seen as repressive barriers to individual fulfilment, will come to be recognised for what they always were: the language of relationship and the precondition of trust. When that happens we will begin to renew the covenant which turns competing strangers into the shared enterprise that we call society.

Faith in the Future by Jonathan Sacks is published by Darton, Longman & Todd, £11.95



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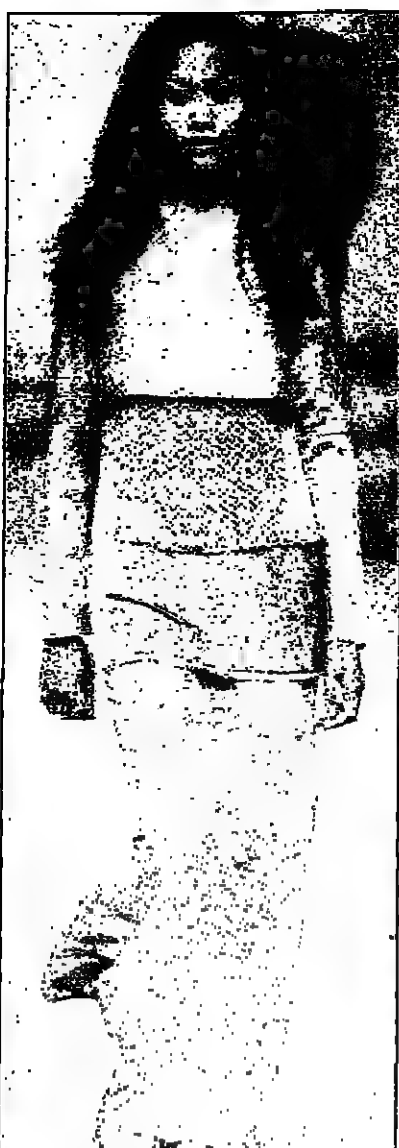
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MILAN

The catwalks are knee-deep in little black dresses and big colourful statements



Fashion
—
IAIN R. WEBB

ON MY way to the airport to catch the plane to Milan for the unveiling of the autumn-winter 1995-96 collections, the cab driver proffered these words of wisdom: "A woman can't really go wrong with a little black dress."

It's true, and that goes for designers too. In Milan almost every collection had an LBD, further emphasising the return to *soigné* dressing, a rerun of Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* — only now the cocktail hour lasts all day. Satin, velvet, and chiffon are no longer reserved for after dark, the fine line between daywear and evening apparel being all but obliterated.

Which brings us to the flip side of understated elegance which shared the spotlight. At its focus are colour and fabrication — an eclectic, vaguely eccentric mix-and-unmatched way of dressing which appears the antithesis of the LBD — best exemplified by Scott Crolla for Callaghan. Crolla is known for his fascination with fabrics, and his first collection for the Italian label reflected this, juxtaposing several colours, patterns, and textures on the same outfit. Crolla focused on the slim silhouette which was universal as the shape of things to come.

And so it was throughout the Milan show — an exciting blend of the wildly outrageous and unparalleled sophistication. The designers are still plundering the past, primarily the late 1950s to late 1960s (think Anne Bancroft as Mrs Robinson).

There was also a preoccupation with the past glories of Hollywood (the ultimate glamour factory), and an attempt to seduce with sheer luxury. As far as fashion is concerned, the future certainly feels good.

Below, Italian designers outline their collections.



ISTANTE BY VERSACE: casualness and glitz, offering a 1950s Hollywood atmosphere. Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

MAXMARA: Luxurious tailoring with couture details. The new look has a retro-inspired elegance. The silhouette features a more defined waist.

KRIZIA: Long live cinema! The collection is a homage to the legends of the screen.

Tailored suits such as Myrna Loy would have worn, Marlene Dietrich's tuxedos — weapons of eternal femininity. Seduction is the message.

VALENTINO: The Oliver collection is all about luxury and ease. Exquisitely refined yet extremely casual. Cigarette slim skirts have narrow waists emphasised by wide belts. Camel, brown and grey mixed with stronger shades offer a relaxed glamour. Fabrics are sumptuous.

JIL SANDER: Glamour gets eccentric. A bold, vibrant statement which is at the same time sensual and subtle. A mix of avant-garde materials such as nylon, Lurex and sculptured organzas, with luxurious wools and gabardines.

GIANNI VERSACE: Tailoring accentuates the cut, proportion and construction. "Glamour for day": casual outfits transformed by precious fabrics offered by 1950s Hollywood atmosphere. Lots

of chiffon, georgette, satin with cashmere in bright and soft colours.

GIORGIO ARMANI: Elegance, sophistication and impeccable tailoring. Bias-cut fabrics, one-tone colours, long skirts and wide trousers. Luxurious fabrics include wool,

silk velvet, damask and satin for day; and lots of black velvet and jacquard silk or stretch tulle for evening.

GIANFRANCO FERRE: For day, clothes are designed to be efficient, sharp and smooth, while evening wear is seductive. The suit made from superstretch fabrics is smaller in proportion. Knits fit like a glove. There are flashes of bare flesh, and transparency.

GUCCI: Sexy, relaxed but still chic, with no distinction between day and evening. There is one look, anti-retro. A slimmer silhouette, moulded to the body. Coats often match the pants — the trouser suit looks right. Colours are incandescent.

● IT'S TIME to search out those old Dulux paint charts — the predominant colours for winter 1995 were favourites of interior decorators circa 1973: orange, purple, chocolate brown and pale blue.

● THESE shoes weren't made for walking. As heels continue to get even higher, insurance on models must be reaching a premium, lest they take a tumble. At Missoni Yasmeh Ghauri almost came a cropper in a pair of white spike-heeled booties. Meanwhile, Katharine Hammett must be kicking herself for not checking her models' shoe sizes. Some girls had to suffer shoes stuffed

MILAN HOTLINE

with tissue paper, while others abandoned them and walked barefoot. An unfortunate way to launch a new shoe line.

● SURPRISE, surprise. The long wait for the Gucci show to begin was brightened by a rousing chorus of *Happy Birthday* for *Women's Wear Daily* head honcho, John Fairchild. The usually super-cool Mr Fairchild looked suitably embarrassed.

● THE on-off love affair between supermodel Claudia Schiffer and illusionist David Copperfield is on again — the pair were seen canoodling in the tea-room of the Grand Hotel only yesterday.

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Alan Coren



■ The day is at hand, the hand is at the numeric pad, but where is that number?

By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes. More precisely, by the pricking of my fingers. My fingers know they are about to be asked to cope with a whole lot of new stuff, and they know they are about to be found wanting. They know this because they have been watching television, clutching the armchair to stull their trembling, and they know that what is coming is PHONEday. That is how it is advertised, because BT want to engrave on our memory the fact that the figure 1 is to be added to all our phone numbers, and, fearless of irony, they know that the way to engrave it is not with a number but with a word. We can remember words: you all have my introductory quote by heart, but if the Second Witch had chosen instead to rattle off her Access number, who now could summon it effortlessly to mind? The only way BT could have fixed 1 as a number would have been to flash up PHONEday and back its itty graphic with a tape of Kiri Te Kanawa trilling *One Phone Day*, laying coloratura emphasis on the one, and if you think I am rambling you are dead right, that is what blue funk does.

Once upon a time, life was a doddle for fingers. If they wished to dial someone, they referred to a brain stocked with words. ENTERPRISE, JUNIPER, GLADSTONE — which a mere four digits were attached. The brain could store hundreds of these. It had no need of a personal organiser, to be carried at all times, on which a minimum of ten digits had to be stored for each phone, the phones themselves codified numerologically, so that if the fingers needed to look up their number, the brain had first to remember the number under which the fingers had stored it.

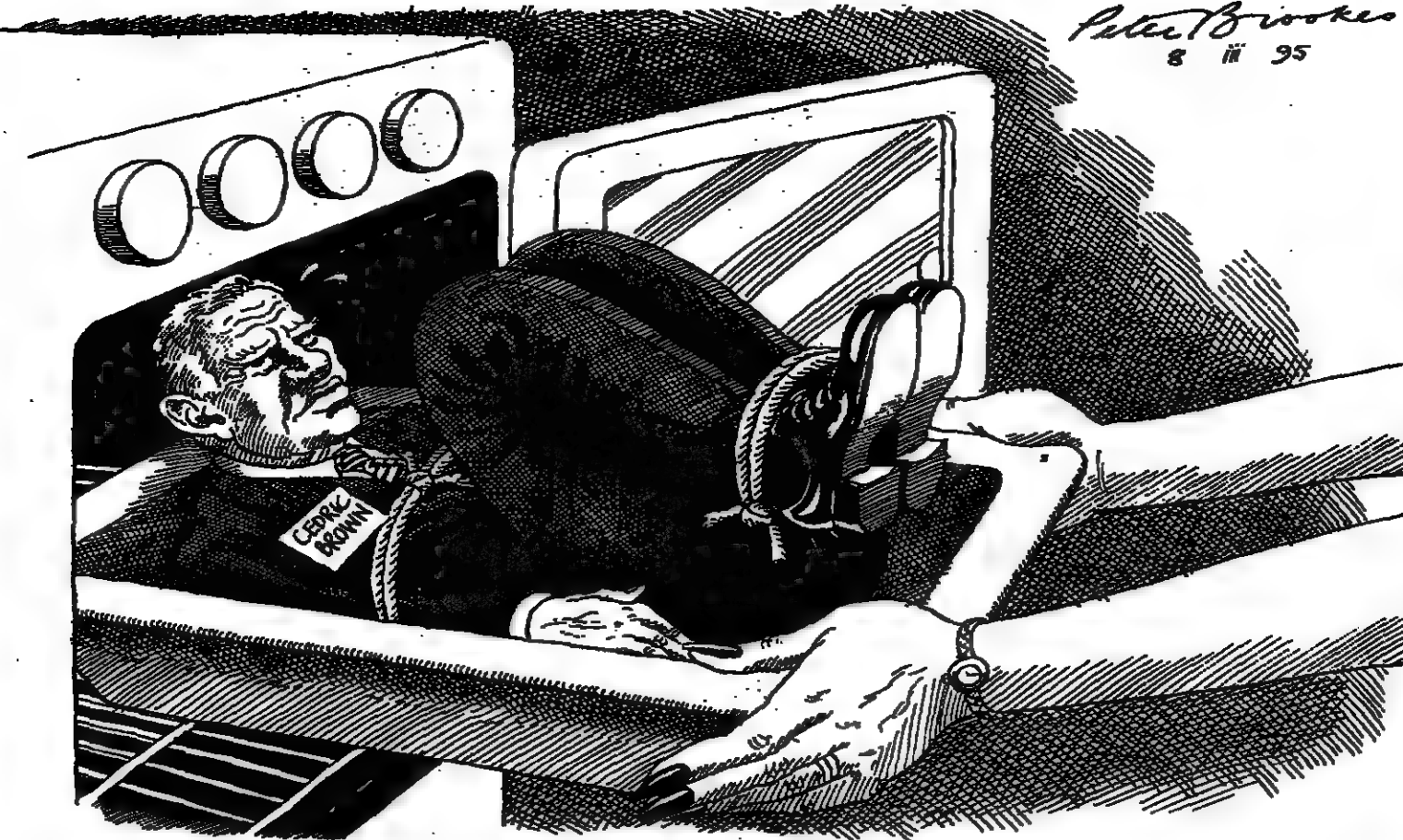
Had, mind, the brain wanted to buy a personal organiser, or anything else, it would have obtained the requisite cash by going to a bank where its fingers would write a cheque. It would not have stood in the queue outside the bank, as today's brain does, struggling to distinguish between its cashpoint number, its PIN number, its car radio locking code, its personal number for the keypad on its office door, and the number of the combination lock of the briefcase in which it planned to put the money for the kind of really safe keeping you get when you cannot subsequently remember the number of the combination lock: only to realise, when its fingers had tapped the cashpoint numbers out and the machine had eaten the card, that the number they had tapped was in fact its video club membership number, though for which of its three video clubs the brain could not, as it were, put its finger on.

That the brain did not write any of these numbers down goes without saying, since the whole point of codes, see OED, is that they are a system of signals designed to ensure secrecy, though not necessarily from the brain inside the head currently banging itself on the wall of the bank, knowing that the only way to get at its own money is to write to the bank so that the bank can, after a week or so, issue a card with a nice new number for the brain to forget.

Some brains, though, do write these myriad numbers down, but they do it very carefully, by jumbling the numbers, e.g. middle digits reversed, outer digits increased by one, so that all the brain has to do, when asked to give its account number at, say, John Lewis (if its John Lewis card is inextricably locked inside its briefcase) is look at the account number on its personal organiser (if it can remember the number under which it was stored), remember exactly the system by which the digits were jumbled, and then wait for John Lewis to call the police.

This need not be a major problem, as the police will allow the brain to make one telephone call, to its solicitor. It becomes a major problem only if its solicitor's number is inside the briefcase which the brain has to explain to the desk sergeant that it is unable to open, in which event it is possible that the brain may find itself with a new number, but for once, no difficulty in remembering, since it is stitched on its shirt.

No wonder, then, that the fingers prick at the imminence of PHONEday. More yet, the eyes weep to remember the words which follow that introductory quote: "Open, locks, whoever knocks." It was a terrific system.



To Grill: Place on top shelf in front of House of Commons Employment Select Committee, Gas Mk 7, until goose is well and truly cooked. Serving suggestion: Stuffed, with lashings of gravy.

Power's new brokers

The various utility services may have been privatised, but their nature means they cannot be denationalised — or depoliticised

Money stinks. The more you have of it, the more it stinks, and the more people notice. The chief executive of British Gas, Cedric Brown, is paid to think ahead. When he dipped his nose into the options trough, he must have known what he was doing. He was taking money which many of his customers, his shareholders and many former taxpayers would feel was rightfully theirs.

Yesterday, all who think that British Gas is just another private company should have been in Commons Committee Room 15. The gas executive, Cedric Brown, was playing his familiar role of public enemy number one over pay. He was discovering that his company, wherever else it may be, is not in the private sector. It is that peculiar creature of Thatcherism, a private company in the public sector. Like electricity, also in the news yesterday, it operates a franchise to produce and distribute gas for the public use. The terms of the British Gas licence, the prices it may charge and thus its share price all depend on "Ofgas". This is an official, named Clare Spottiswoode, appointed by ministers and (vaguely) accountable to the House of Commons. The industry has its own minister, Tim Eggar. This is the public sector. All else is liars.

Yet what a timid, hesitant, pathetic public sector it is. On display in the Commons yesterday was not the majesty of Parliament but its impotence. In theory, Parliament created Mr Brown and his monopoly. In theory, Parliament set up Ofgas and "accounted" for it. In theory, Parliament should have ensured, if it wanted, that Ofgas never British Gas clear of the options racket. In practice, all Parliament has done is stamp its little foot, in the form of a select committee chairman, Greville Janner, and howl. It can summon Mr Brown as often as it likes and berate him for his greed. Mr Brown need only smile sweetly and mutter Paul Getty's famous adage: "The meek shall inherit the earth, but not its mineral rights."

The chickens of 1980s energy privatisation are coming home to roost. British Gas was the most bizarre. In 1986, it was the subject of a battle between, on the one hand, the energy minister Peter Walker and the gas chairman Sir Denis Rooke, and, on the other, the Chancellor Nigel Lawson. The former wanted a privatised monopoly, the latter wanted the industry broken up and made more

competitive. Mrs Thatcher rather sheepishly sided with Mr Walker, on the curious grounds, she admits in her memoirs, of "lack of parliamentary time". The truth is that Sir Denis Rooke terrified her by threatening to resign and wreck Europe's biggest ever privatisation. He was one of the few men to face down Mrs Thatcher. British Gas was duly sold as a monopoly and sold cheap (it was four times oversubscribed). It was also graced with the lightest of regulatory regimes, to the rage of its customers. As soon as Mr Walker left office in 1990, he joined the British Gas board, a matter on which Lord Nolan must have something to say.

British Gas has exploited its monopoly. It has raised money domestically for ambitious international adventures. It has fought to protect its monopoly with its "drill-tip" advertising campaign, provoked each night on Classic-FM. The word "international" is obsessively reiterated. The Treasury has struggled to recover from the 1986 debacle. In last week's Gas Bill, it unpicked the Walker deal and made sure that some competition in supply is available throughout the industry. Meanwhile the regulator, Ms Spottiswoode, is being leant on to insist on customer care and conservation measures, despite her vain attempt to concentrate on competition. Pressure groups lobby ministers. Ministers change the licence conditions. They summon meetings with the regulator, who summons meetings with boards.

This is not regulation, it is politics, and it is breaking out all over the former nationalised utilities. Yesterday the electricity regulator, Stephen Littlechild, responded forcefully to criticism that he had "gone native" and allowed profiteering by the regional power companies. He decided to cut electricity prices and thus dividends. In doing so, he savaged the value of the new-

ly privatised generating companies. Mr Littlechild made what amounts to a political decision. He shifted "value" from shareholders to consumers. He did so immediately after the Government had raised £4 billion pounds from selling the generating companies. Yesterday the value of these new shares plummeted and the City was understandably enraged. Mr Littlechild claimed that his decision on energy prices was pure coincidence, while the minister, Mr Eggar, denied knowing that any such decision was in the offing. What kind of fools do these people take the public for?

The regulators are ministers in all but name, just as Mr Eggar is a regulator in all but name. We are almost back to the "nudds and winks" of old-style nationalisation: discounts for old people, supplies to rural areas, energy saving, access to the network for private operators. The one malady the Government failed to put under the regulators' wing was control on the determination of board incomes. Yet nothing has more damaged utility privatisation in the eyes of the public than this.

British Gas is about to be subjected to domestic competition. Its restructuring under its chairman, Richard Giordano, is radical. So was his reworking of executive pay, which he carried through last year and which led to the uproar over the apparent 75 per cent rise in Mr Brown's salary (it was mostly a consolidation of previous bonuses). What neither Mr Brown nor Mr Giordano can rectify is the bad taste left by the options racket, including Mr Brown's "lost" £250,000 in extra options, which precipitated yesterday's Commons hearing.

British Gas has decided to abandon this perk in future. I assume it recognises that options have no place in what remains, irrespective of ownership, a

monopoly in the public sector. In this it is ahead of water and electricity. Share options are not true performance pay, since there is no penalty if the shares lose value. They are a case of heads I win, tails I can't lose. For privatised monopolies, the rise in share values usually reflects underpricing of the shares on flotation, or in the case of British Gas, post-privatisation cost cutting. In both cases, options reward executives for curbing their previous inefficiency when in the public sector. When, as in the case of gas, they do this mostly by laying off 10,000 staff it is insensitive to give themselves huge rewards. The added value in these perks is properly a return for the public's past investment, not for a board member.

Money seems to bring out the worst in the rich. Top pay exemplifies J.K. Galbraith's reminder that "the salary of the chief executive of the large corporation is not a market award for achievement. It is frequently in the nature of a warm personal gesture by the individual to himself". In the private sector, executives can do what they like and hope they can get away with it. In the public sector this will not pass muster. Until last month, John Major believed that utilities options were money squeezed from the press of market forces by tough shareholders and fearless remuneration committees. There was no limit to his naivety. Then he read his postbag and discovered that the public was less gullible.

What Mr Major can do about these utilities and their pay is another matter. I believe the "new" utilities public sector is a great advance on the old, but it is blighted by regulatory confusion. The regulator has to be accountable to some public institution: if a minister, then let us say so. The fact is you cannot denationalise a utility. You can sell its shares; you can introduce competition at the margin; you can abuse its directors and persecute them with regulation. But politicians are ultimately responsible for the structure and performance of these services, whether the supply companies are private or public. That is what regulation means and what the electorate expects.

The Labour Party has a device for handling all this. It is called Clause Four. Utilities are the one corner of the economy to which that clause still has relevance. Tony Blair doesn't want it; perhaps Mr Major might have a use for it.

America's equality race

Ben Macintyre on the souring of affirmative action

After three decades as the touchstone of American liberalism, affirmative action, the principle that disadvantaged minorities deserve preferential access to the workplace and higher education, is suddenly fighting for survival.

Affirmative action has long been a sacred but contradictory element in America's national self-image. Americans like to think of themselves as champions of the underdog, but equally the nation is founded on the belief that success should be the direct reward for talent and hard work, without regard to race, gender or class, which in turn explains why most Americans consider affirmative action iniquitous, un-American and moribund. More than 80 per cent of whites and a majority of non-whites oppose it.

Spurred by mounting public anger, a long overdue reassessment is now under way, and it promises to become the defining ideological battle of the current Administration. As so often, California's voters are leading the charge. The California Civil Rights Initiative, which would ban race and gender-biased preferences in state hiring and college admissions, is heading for the state ballot next year, and opposition to affirmative action is a central plank of the 1996 Republican platform.

The political stakes could not be higher. President Clinton last week pledged to review all federal affirmative action programmes and eradicate those that are unfair or ineffective, prompting fury on the left — Jesse Jackson threatened to run against Clinton rather than "stand by and watch the gains of 30 years be lost" — while the right scented an issue that could leave the president critically vulnerable.

This is essentially a moral rather than a political issue. The civil rights movement fought to achieve equality between all races, but instead a system has evolved which often rewards skin colour rather than merit. One form of discrimination was replaced with another. Instead of bringing America's races closer together, affirmative action has pushed them further apart, as indignation at preferential racial policies has reached a critical level among whites.

At the same time, the perception of reverse discrimination undermines those members of minorities who have won responsible positions in society fairly and on their own merit.

By definition, affirmative action was intended to be a temporary remedy, a way to offer historically outcast groups a route to the top that would soon become obsolete. It has proved to be anything but. The average income of black families has actually declined since 1969, while a growing 46 per cent of black children are currently born into poverty, and a black man is twice as likely to be unemployed as a white one. The principal beneficiaries of affirmative action have turned out to be white, middle-class women.

This suggests that the answer lies not in awarding opportunities to distinct racial groups irrespective of ability, in an effort to create an artificially diversified work force, but in tackling the problem at a more fundamental level: specifically, by improving education and rebuilding a sense of community and family in America's ravaged ghettos.

No one ever grew strong on a free lunch. Affirmative action has helped to instill a sense of inferiority in those it seeks to benefit, and deep resentment among those it does not. Without doubt, the growing revulsion contains a quotient of raw, old-fashioned racism: yet the proponents of affirmative action are equally prone to hide their intentions behind euphemistic language: "diversity goals", "admission preferences", "special considerations", "compensatory timebables", adding up that dread, forbidden word, "quotas".

These cut both ways, neither of them healthy: at the University of California, Berkeley, examiners have been accused of putting a "cap" on the number of qualified Asian-Americans who can enrol, while blacks and hispanics (known as "protected minorities") may gain entry even if their qualifications are below par. Academic standards are sacrificed in the interests of manufacturing a multi-cultural milieu.

The entire, largely informal edifice of affirmative action has been created not because it works, and still less because American voters want it, but because for decades it has made American social engineers feel better about the grim legacy of the country's racist past. That inheritance is alive and festering, but not invincible. In a trenchant *New York Times* article, the black writer Shelby Steele argued that affirmative action should be replaced by a wholesale legal assault on prejudice itself, making "discrimination by race, gender or ethnicity... a criminal offence, not just civil".

Racism is subtle, supple and usually covert, but only by attacking it at root can minorities take, with pride, the place in society merited by their individual talents — as women have started to do. Already the Clinton Administration is considering ways to adapt institutionalised gender and race preferences into a more equitable distribution of opportunity based on income or class.

The reopening of this debate is likely to be acrid and ugly. It may be hijacked by demagogues, further polarising America along racial lines, but it may also be the most significant step forward in American race relations for a generation.

Extra time

THE SHEEPSKIN coat brigade who pack the commentary boxes of the nation's football grounds for *Match of the Day* have been given extra time. British Airways has changed its Manchester-London timetable to enable them to get back to the capital after reporting matches in the North West.

The airline's chairman, Arsenal fan Sir Colin Marshall, intervened personally to put back by half an hour the departure time of the last shuttle from Manchester to London on Saturday evenings.

The BBC's Tony Gubba set the ball rolling by writing to Marshall explaining that the 6.30pm flight was too early for him and his crew and the many other journalists, supporters and even visiting teams. He complained that post-match interviews were suffering.

In his reply Marshall wrote: "We have had letters from other people attending football matches in the north of England who have also said the last flight is too early. The retraining is effective from Saturday, April 1, so I hope this will be useful for matches at the end of the season." The new timetable will continue next season. Gubba is delighted. "The extra

half hour is very important, it gives footballers a little longer to preen themselves before an interview. Some of them take so long drying their hair that we worry about missing the last flight home."

Flying high

IN A letter in yesterday's *Times*, Judith Jackson lauded the world's airlines for their hospitality. She told of an incident when she was



bumped up to first class by an airline helping her escape a team of American footballers and fans packed in economy.

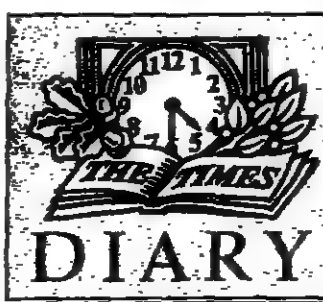
But she was only ever upgraded when she travelled alone, she explained. "I have never been upgraded when travelling with my husband."

All that could change now. Within hours of Jackson posting her letter to *The Times*, John Major promoted her husband, John Horam, to citizen's charter minister, to replace Robert Hughes. Jackson doesn't hold out much hope, however. "John has been travelling as an MP for years and it hasn't made any difference. Even if you are the Pope, I don't think it helps."

Only connect

THE Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, was banging the European drum the other day in a speech to the Conservative Group for Europe. "The Single Market", he said, "gives us the chance to play to our strengths."

"I came across a good example of this last week. One of the most dynamic sectors for British business at the moment is the digital mobile phone," he went on. "Network operators... are doing well in over 30 countries." And all thanks to the European Commis-



sion and its member states, said Hurd. The Foreign Secretary's information on mobile phones was well connected. It came from his 25-year-old son Alex, who works in the industry.

After collecting his knight-hood from the Queen yesterday, Sir Robert Stephens repaired to the Saville Club in Mayfair with friends including Helena Kennedy, QC. So proud is he of his gong that he wore it throughout lunch.

Disciplinarian

ALAN CLARK, chairman of the judges for the ATRT Non-Fiction Award, has been upsetting his fellow panellists. At the announcement of the shortlist of 12 authors for the £25,000 prize, in St James's on Monday night, the former de-

fence minister explained that he was taking a firm line with the other judges, who include the critic Sheridan Morley.

"Some of them have been complaining that I'm too bossy, but you have to have discipline," he said. "You can't have people talking across each other. I have also realised that you have to have balance when choosing a list. I hate balance normally, but as chairman I appreciate that it is necessary."

One of the panel gave a delicate assessment of the meetings so far: "There have been a few spats. And there'll probably be more."

Fabba four

THE MOST extraordinary musical claim is made in a forthcoming book about a 1970s pop group. In *Abba: The Name of the Game*, the co-authors Andrew Oldham, Tony Calder and Colin Irwin make the breathtaking assertion that the group were the "greatest songwriters of the 20th century".

Oldham is a former manager of the Rolling Stones and, with Calder, he helped to mould such bands as Fleetwood Mac. But it is Abba's disco-fodder, like *Winner Takes It All*, *Waterloo* and *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, that causes the book to gush about "wonder-



Getting the Abba habit

ful, heartbreakingly beautiful songs with moving lyrics and classic melody structure". David Sinclair, *The Times*'s rock critic, is astonished. "Abba have a certain post-modern kitsch quality. It will be the Osmonds' turn next year."

P.H.S



SID AND CEDRIC

Privatisations were never meant to be so politically painful

By privatising the public utilities, the Government must have hoped that it could shift its responsibilities for them to the directors of the companies and their regulators. Instead, ministers find themselves worse off: they are blamed more for excess pay and profits, yet they have less power over the companies than they did before. The more "private" the utilities become, the more public and political becomes the outcry against them.

Yesterday Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, announced that he was likely to demand bigger cuts in electricity prices. The move sent a high-voltage shock through the stock market, dragging down the prices not just of the regional electricity companies (Recs) themselves, but also those of PowerGen and National Power, the recently privatised electricity generators. The Government stands accused of not using the prospectus to alert potential shareholders to the danger that the regulator might act. Yet newspapers had written of the possibility, and ministers had no control over the announcement.

At the same time, in a Commons committee room, Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, was back before the Employment Select Committee to justify his pay and perks. In response to public indignation, the Prime Minister has now backed down on the issue of executive pay, promising to consider implementing any legislative proposals that the Greenbury committee on top pay might recommend.

As our chart on page 29 shows, remuneration committees are packed with directors from other companies who have a vested interest in raising the going rate of executive pay. And the utilities have imported non-executive directors from private-sector companies who bid up the salaries to comparable levels. Yet a monopoly utility is not comparable to a company operating in a

competitive market. Increasing the profits of a utility is easy, and a regulator, however tough, is no substitute for the disciplines of competition.

By promising legislation, however, John Major is playing a risky political game. Ceding ground to the Opposition is the sign of an administration in distress; and whatever the Government promises to do, the Labour Party is bound to promise more. As well as making the Prime Minister look weak, the U-turn may also weaken the finances of his party. If businessmen, who already find "new" Labour attractive, think that the Government is deserting them, they may switch loyalties or at least cease contributions to the Conservatives.

There was plenty that ministers could have done without legislation. If executive pay was for shareholders to determine, then the Government could have used its large shareholdings in many of the utilities to curb any excesses. And the Chancellor could have changed the tax treatment of share options to encourage directors actually to buy shares in their companies rather than simply hold options. Then they, like other shareholders, would be subject to losses as well as gains.

Meanwhile, ministers will continue to be punished for the weaknesses of the regulators whom they appointed and the regimes that they designed. It is astonishing if Professor Littlechild did not realise how rich the ReCs were until Northern Electric offered its shareholders a huge bribe to resist the Trafalgar House bid. What was the regulator doing if not poring over the electricity companies' books? And what was the Government doing in designing a system that allowed the ReCs to make such huge monopoly profits? Ministers may remain at one remove, but in the case of these utilities, they will never be able to distance themselves far enough to escape political damage.

AN HONEST ANNIVERSARY

Britain is right to refer to VJ-Day

The British Government's refusal to change the name of VJ-Day to something more anodyne is an admirable contrast to the decision of other countries not to use the term in this year's 50th anniversary celebrations. The final surrender to the Allies in August 1945 has always been marked as "Victory over Japan Day". As a result, the letters "VJ" are powerfully symbolic to those who lived through the war in the Far East. This symbolism has not stopped the other Allied countries which are marking the anniversary from dropping the term.

America has chosen "End of the War" as its substitute; Canada prefers "Canada remembers"; and Australia and New Zealand have compromised with "Victory in the Pacific". The extent to which this change has been made in response to formal Japanese representations is unclear. Yet it is obvious that these nations now regard the sensibilities of the Japanese as more important than the feelings of their surviving veterans. This is a lamentable victory of political correctness and craven diplomatic thinking over dignified national pride.

How a country commemorates its historic victories is a matter of legitimate debate. The organisation of the anniversary celebrations for D-Day and VE-Day has proved far more testing in this respect than the British Government first suspected. It may be argued — as it has been — that international reconciliation should form as important a part of such events as the celebration of past military triumphs. No civilised nation seeks to offend its former adversaries gratuitously. Equally, however, no civilised nation should be expected to conceal anything in its past merely to avoid upsetting other countries.

The fact that Japan was defeated in a just

war is inescapable: it cannot be buried in polite euphemism. To rename a historic event is not simply a matter of nomenclature. It signifies the importance with which a society invests that event. The flight of James II and the accession of William of Orange were not widely described as "Glorious" until the French Revolution showed Englishmen how much worse things might have been. Likewise, historians have often tried to re-name the English Civil War to indicate their view of its meaning.

Marxists have called it a "Puritan Revolution"; regional historians describe it as a "Revolt of the Provinces"; institutional historians interested in the origins of the Union see the conflict as the "War of the Three Kingdoms". The names we use to describe such events are richly symbolic. To rename VJ-Day would therefore be more than a matter of political convenience. It would be a profound statement about one of the most important moments in our recent past, marking the end of a diabolic global struggle.

One of the most pernicious tendencies of post-modern thinking has been to regard history as an infinitely malleable "text" which may be deconstructed and manipulated as the historian sees fit. This approach should be resisted fiercely. All history, of course, is interpretative. All history is an encounter between past and present. But the concerns of the present should not be allowed to distort the past beyond recognition; nor should the past be made the servant of present politics. It may suit some of Japan's modern trading partners to obscure its role in the Second World War. The British Government is right to dissociate itself from this ill-conceived dishonesty.

TWIN PIQUE

Cities, like people, must choose their partners with care

Raising happy twins is demanding and, when siblings fall out, the hurt can be deep and lasting. Municipal bonds are no less fragile, and Ripon, the cathedral city in Yorkshire, is nursing the rebuffs it has received from the burghers of Foix, a pretty market town at the foot of the Pyrenees. Thirty-eight years ago the two were joined in fraternal friendship, erected boundary signs acknowledging the link and exchanged ornate scrolls to hang in their council chambers. But, like a long-distance marriage, the affair withered. No football teams exchange shirts, no schoolchildren attend each other's classes. Ripon Council's patience has now snapped and it has vetoed money to keep the link alive. Foix, meanwhile, has sheepishly admitted that its heart belongs to its other twin in Spain, a mere two hours away.

Keighley was the pioneer of urban march-making, establishing its link with Poix-du-Nord in 1920. But the movement really got going after the Second World War. The aim was lofty: reconciliation amid the devastation of war. Wartime suffering united the towns. In 1944 Coventry formally associated itself with Stalingrad. Other wartime siblings followed — Arnheim, Warsaw and Lidice in Czechoslovakia. The most important link was with Dresden — a vibrant connection with Dresden's worth, as the recent commemorative ceremonies in Dresden showed, memorialising the city's fate. Towns twinning rapidly became a fad. Towns, boroughs and even villages sought out counterparts in warmer climes — preferably in

France, where the cuisine was renowned, the setting idyllic and the chance for Clochemerle junketing irresistible. Some were inspired — Edinburgh and Munich, for example — some obvious, such as Dover and Calais, and some bizarre, such as Oxford and Bonn. Bath, Chester or Chichester never lacked suitors. But pity the poor boroughs in Cleveland, the Welsh Valleys or the east London suburbs who, apart from ugly sisters in Lille or Recklinghausen would have them?

In fact, like marriages, some of the oddest links are the most enduring. Political protest and Soviet blandishments seduced left-wing councils. But the resulting twinnings have endured: Minsk still thinks a lot of Nottingham, and Coventry, with a record of 26 links, has collected aid for its battered twin Sarajevo. One wonders what Warrington, of vodka fame, makes now of Zugdidi in Georgia. Luxembourg of Camden or Haifa of Hackney. But links such as fish (for Reykjavik and Hull) or ethnicity (Rochdale and Salford) show that modern twinning is not just about council trips, but trade, development, culture and sport.

There are still 150 towns in Britain seeking overseas twins: gratifyingly, twice as many abroad are seeking siblings here. When the affair takes root, urban happiness radiates across the Channel. But, like computer dating, things can go wrong: each town has to check out its prospective mate's vital statistics. As Ripon found, cities, like people, can sometimes prove fickle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Many lessons still to be learnt from collapse of Barings

From Mr David Whitley

Sir, The Bank of England must accept its share of, if not the full responsibility for the collapse of Barings (Letters, March 1, 2, 4, 6). Without doubt, there were serious flaws in Barings's risk-management and trading skills in the highly volatile derivatives market; but the Bank has obviously failed to learn any lessons from the 1992 report of the Bingham Inquiry into the supervision of BCCI, and is still facing civil action for negligence.

In 1984-86 BCCI ran up massive losses in its money market operation, speculating in commodities and financial futures through its affiliated trading company, Capcom Financial Services. BCCI's head of treasury, also a director of Capcom, was indicted for drug money laundering offences in Florida shortly afterwards. Capcom appears to have remained "unregulated" and is still actively trading in futures and derivatives.

The Bank has dismissed the plausible claim, made by Barings's chairman (report, March 1), that Barings was the victim of an inside fraud by dealers seeking to enhance their annual bonus, while booking losses to the Barings investment portfolio.

It would be all too easy for a crooked dealer, given minimal risk-management supervision, to use the derivatives market to create a trading profit by using interest-rate swaps. Clearly, there must have been a conspiracy to defraud Barings, involving more than just one "rogue trader" in Singapore.

It is a tragedy that the new Governor has failed to rescue Barings, and thereby destroyed the credibility of the "Bill on London", where Barings' acceptances were once "as good as gold".

It is also ironic that his predecessor permitted BCCI to achieve full banking status and continue trading for another five years after the massive fraud in its treasury operations had been uncovered.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WHITLEY (member,
BCCI Private Study Group,
Hartley Cottage,
Headley Lane, Passfield,
Nr Liphook, Hampshire,
March 7.

From Lord Davies

Sir, The Barings debacle has drawn attention to the dangers inherent in the payment of bonuses that are much larger than basic salaries. This system of remuneration effectively detaches the motivation of the employees in risk businesses from the interests of investors, by rewarding them hugely for the upside of risk decisions but restricting their downside to potential loss of salary, often softened by substantial severance payments.

A similar system has already contributed substantially to the Lloyd's disaster, and may yet lead to problems in the privatised utilities and elsewhere, where huge share option schemes provide directors with "heads I win, tails you lose" motivation on risk-taking.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DAVIES,
Plus Dinam, Llandinam, Powys,
March 2.

From Mr Gary J. R. Garland

Sir, The saddest aspect of the Barings affair is that when the chips were down and the City was asked to try to save Barings all the good and the great who earn mega-money got cold feet and ran for cover. It has been left to ING, the Dutch bank, to come to the rescue — obviously spotting a good long-term investment.

Surely, most people will be asking why the City, if it is still a leading force in world finance, did not find the solution. Could it be that like so many other aspects of British commerce and industry, the City is becoming a second-rate centre which will, if it is not careful, be eclipsed by the more forward-thinking financial forces such as Frankfurt and Tokyo?

Yours faithfully,
GARY GARLAND,
44 Saltwell Road South,
Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

From Mr Peter Hobday

Sir, Anyone facing trial for commercial crime in Singapore and found guilty will encounter a tough approach. If found guilty of "criminal breach of trust" he could get three to six years. If found guilty under Singa-

pore's futures trading Act he faces seven years in prison and a fine of \$100,000. And a charge of "cheating" carries a sentence of ten years.

The UK, in contrast, appears to have a policy of positive discrimination for commercial crime. Everyone seems resigned to the encouraging way in which our laws treat business and City crime.

Surely we should adopt Singapore's tough approach to commercial crime as soon as possible.

Yours etc,
PETER HOBDAY,
Gweal-an-Drea, Polurrian Road,
Mullion, Cornwall.

From Professor Allan Solomon

Sir, Of course Professor Tim Congdon (Letter, March 4) is right: there is a difference between an investor and a depositor. If I gambled £100 on a bank share I would be disappointed but not surprised if my investment became worthless. If I deposited £100 in a bank on Monday I would be most surprised not to find it there on Tuesday.

In the case of depositors in banks and building societies, can the Government not institute a limited guarantee scheme, such as that operated for many years by the US Federal Government in the case of savings and loan societies?

Yours etc,
ALLAN SOLOMON,
43 The Gardens,
Watford, Hertfordshire.

From Lord Jellicoe

Sir, Some of your readers may agree and some may disagree with the tenor of Bernard Levin's article on the Barings collapse (March 3) which carried the headline, "All agreed in greed".

What I found surprising — indeed shocking — is that nowhere in his article did Bernard Levin mention the wonderfully generous support which the Barings Foundation has given over the years to innumerable charities and to many other good causes — a support not altogether consonant with the headline.

Yours faithfully,
JELLCOE,
House of Lords.

ambique, Northern Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia and Yemen. These programmes have covered education in mine awareness and demining training, as well as mine clearance itself.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DAVIS,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1,
March 3.

From Mr George Aitken

Sir, The successful clearance of small hard-to-detect mines (often in plastic cases and therefore largely non-biodegradable) in large areas of un-mapped minefields may well never be complete.

"Civilised" countries may impose a moratorium on the production and export of any other than the more technically advanced "smart" mines, with self-destruct or cancelling characteristics built in. But a basic anti-personnel mine is one of the simplest and cheapest items in the military inventory. It can be, in fact, made in substantial numbers in less-developed countries. Production requires little above "backyard-workshop" facilities, and the mines can cost perhaps as little as five or six dollars each, especially in countries with low labour rates.

Even if such mines are not, by Western military standards, of high reliability, this is unimportant if they are being laid in large numbers in unrecorded minefields. Even at, say, 70 per cent reliability they would constitute a

Homeless as well as without hope

From the Provost and Chapter of Southwark Cathedral

Sir, One of the several homeless people who regularly come to this cathedral for help called on us again recently. We learn that the shelter where she lives is to be closed at the end of March because all cold-weather shelters will close then. These are part of the "rough sleepers initiative" for which government funding is scheduled to end in March 1996.

The hostel from which our female visitor comes turns away three or four people every night. On the night of November 17-18, 1994, no fewer than 204 people were turned away from shelters in central London as there was no more room.

What is the hope for the rehabilitation of homeless people if they are accommodated and assisted only from October to March? Is it somehow envisaged (was it ever?) that all the homeless and mentally ill people on our streets will disappear in 1996?

We read of privatised utilities declaring massive profits, often following staff redundancies, and outrageously high executive pay rises excused with a shrug because that is the level "the market" requires.

Unless the market is checked by other values, its bias to the rich can only increase. The bias of the kingdom of God is on the side of the poor and the disadvantaged.

We cannot continue to pray daily, as we do, that God's kingdom will come, and work towards it, without at the same time holding our Government accountable to God for the increasing social deprivation around us, and reminding it of the call of Amos: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream" (RSV, Amos v. 24).

Yours faithfully,
COLIN B. SLEE (Provost),
ROY WHITE
(Vice-Provost and Precentor),
DAVID ATKINSON
(Chancellor and Missioner),
D. PAINTER (Canon Treasurer),
M. KITCHEN (Canon residentiary),
Southwark Cathedral,
Montague Close, SE1,
March 4.

hazard of considerable magnitude and near-indefinite duration.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE AITKEN,
Whiting, Coldstream, Berwickshire,
March 6.

From Sir Nicholas Barrington

Sir, Although I visited many Afghans in hospital tragically maimed by landmines I have for some time thought it unrealistic to expect governments or other groups to renounce the use of mines completely; they are too useful a defensive weapon. Instead I have advocated a half-way house.

There should be an international agreement, rigidly enforced, that landmines can only be produced and sold if they include a mechanism to self-destruct after three years. The technology should not be insuperable.

This would allow mines that are now no-go areas eventually to revert to peaceful occupation. Governments and manufacturers should be ready to co-operate. The latter may sell more mines. But they will not leave areas of the world (eg, in the Falklands) permanently scarred and neutered.

Yours etc,
NICHOLAS BARRINGTON
(Ambassador and High Commissioner to Pakistan, 1987-94; non-resident Ambassador to Afghanistan, 1994),
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
March 4.

Landmine controls

From Mr David Davis, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, I entirely agree with your editorial of March 3 that the case for strong international controls on the use of anti-personnel landmines has never been stronger.

Britain has neither manufactured nor exported anti-personnel landmines for well over a decade. We are in the forefront of international efforts to ensure that landmines are used responsibly, and we intend to play a full part in the review conference of the United Nations Weapons Convention in September 1995 with a view both to strengthening the controls on the use of landmines and ensuring the widest possible adherence.

A world free of landmines is a laudable objective, but not one on which international agreement would be possible. At this stage a complete ban would neither secure broad international support nor be properly implemented. It is therefore right that we concentrate our efforts on realistic measures to protect civilians.

Another important practical element of our policy is our support for activities designed to allow civilians to return safely to areas which have been mined. Britain has over the last three years contributed through the Overseas Development Agency some £8.6 million to demining operations in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Mos-

World upside down

From Mr A. McCormack

Sir, Early this morning we heard that our church had been burgled for the second time in six months. Doors have been forced, the safe and other boxes broken open. Money and personal belongings have been stolen, as well as the chalices bought after the previous theft last year. Of course, the areas affected have been left in a mess.

On then picking up *The Times*, I read a report that "inmates" of British prisons "will soon be able to consult a consumer's guide on the conditions, regimes and facilities they should have and the best jail to which to seek transfer".

Are we completely mad?
Yours faithfully,
A. MCCORMACK,
6 Hillside Avenue, Worthing, Sussex,
March 6.

Inflation-proof

From Professor R. M. Hardisty

Sir, You report (March 2) that the total value of PC Philip Gage's find of Roman coins, "which is believed to be worth up to £30,000 today, was equivalent to a year's pay in Roman times for a skilled professional such as a doctor".

Isn't it still? If you want to keep up with inflation over 1,600 years, don't bank your money — bury it!

Yours faithfully,
R. M. HARDISTY,
4 Ruskin Close, NW11,
March 2.

Mountain rescues

From Mr G. P. A. Thompson

Sir, Every winter — with infuriating regularity — there are reports of "adventurers" who choose to climb Ben Nevis or other high mountains in bad or snowy conditions. Frequently they get lost or injured and then, within hours, teams on foot and helicopters in the air face risks and discomfort in the search for these undeserving perishers.

Many Swiss guides have long since let it be known that those who elect to climb the north face of the Eiger in winter may not be rescued.

I propose that those wishing to climb Ben Nevis (or similar) in winter months should first be required to deposit in cash, say £100, at Fort William Police Station. This deposit may be reclaimed on return if no rescue has been mounted.

The amount could be increased at the discretion of the police if weather conditions are bad. Such a scheme might discourage the foolhardiness of climbers setting out in unsuitable weather.

There is a great difference between foolhardiness and bravery. The climbers are foolhardy, the rescuers are brave.

Yours faithfully,
G. P. A. THOMPSON,
Dunval Hall,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire,
March 1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Hunting the fox

From Mr Peter T. Warhurst

Sir, I am neutral in the debate on the ethics of hunting (Letters, March 3, 6) but it seems to me that both sides could be satisfied if the hounds were fitted with muzzles for the chase.

Yours faithfully,
P. T. WARHURST,
4 Mortimer Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
March 6.

Distant encounters

From Mr Victor Ferguson

Sir, Weston-super-Mare must surely be accorded the first cuckoo sighting of 1995, with the revelation of the Green Party's "non-predatory embrace" (report, March 6).

Yours politically correctly,
VICTOR FERGUSON,
Hockley End,
Cookham Dean, Berkshire,
March 6.

From Mr David Waller

Sir, Was not the Green Party's politically correct hug practised 30 years ago by Eric Morecambe on Ernie Wise? I suspect that the rapid-fire slap to the cheek that followed it would now be considered too "predatory" for modern tastes.

Your servant,
D. WALLER,
27 Foxholes Lane,
Althos, Normanton, West Yorkshire,
March 7.

OBITUARIES

VIVIAN STANSHALL

Vivian Stanshall, pop singer and comedian, was found dead in his flat on March 5 aged 52. He was born on March 21, 1942.

ALTHOUGH the apogee of Vivian Stanshall's career as a rock musician was the mid-1960s when he led the group Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, he was to appear to audiences in many different guises in the decades that followed. True, there were long lacunae in his performance record as he battled — often in isolation — against drink, drugs and the severe depression that periodically undermined his volatile spirit and rendered him unfit for any form of coherent activity. But he always seemed capable of summoning up the will to enable him to bounce back.

Thus, after the demise of the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band in 1970 he had reincarnations as, variously, comic, disc-jockey, radio playwright, broadcaster, film actor and promoter of Ruedesides on TV. And at the time of his death he was about to start recording a new album for his own label WEA.

The surreal, anarchic, satirical and often frankly lunatic style and content of the Bonzo material made them natural performers on the college circuit which was becoming an important audience for rock bands in the mid-1960s, thereby extending the frontiers of the "pop" kingdom, and making its performers more eclectic in their outlook and more adventurous in their approach to sound production. The hoarse solo in the hit song *I'm the Urban Spaceman* (1968) was a characteristic Bonzo touch. Stanshall himself had a considerable knowledge of the English comic tradition and was always able to look backwards and absorb appropriate influences as well as thinking ahead, when considering changes in the content of the Bonzos' stage acts.

Brought up in London, Vivian Stanshall went to sea with the Merchant Navy where the awesome drinking habits of his later life were nurtured. Coming back on shore he went to the Central School of Art, London. There, with students from a number of other colleges, he formed the Bonzos who began life, like so many others, on the pub circuit and graduated to clubs and cabaret. Their style was initially somewhat in the mould of Twenties revivalist bands such as the Temperance Seven and the New Vaudeville Band. But they soon



learned to widen their range and by the time of the issue of their first album, *Gorilla* (1967), could be heard in typically inventive Bonzo style with numbers such as Stanshall's own *The Intro and the Outro*.

The single *I'm the Urban Spaceman* gave the group a Top Ten hit in 1968 and they made several more successful albums, including *The Doughnut* in *Granny's Greenhouse* (1968) and *Tadpoles* (1969).

Of the group's eight or so members, Stanshall (vocals and trumpet) and Neil Innes (vocals and piano) were perhaps the most significant creators of material. Stanshall's leavening innes's rock and psychedelic orientation with his collings from prewar popular musical traditions. The stage shows eventually evolved into crazy explosions of music, movement, scatergun satire and thumbing the nose at icons — all carried off with an almost childlike noisiness.

In the end, the effort of getting up new routines to go with each perfor-

mance proved a strain on the band's material and mental resources, and in 1970 its members parted. Radio, however, provided Stanshall with a second career almost immediately. With the encouragement of the DJ John Peel and his Radio 1 producer John Walters, Stanshall developed the idea of the eccentric English aristocrat Sir Henry Rawlinson who was later to achieve a full flowering in the 1980 film *Sir Henry at Rawlinson End*.

Sketches and narrations by Stanshall involving Sir Henry were a great success and when John Peel took a holiday break from his weekly show *Top Gear* Walters asked Stanshall to stand in as presenter. It was an inspired choice and the mixture of sketches, skits, spoof advertisements and fictitious police reports with which Stanshall proceeded to bamboozle his audience were a great hit. His collaborator in many of these hoaxes was his close friend Keith Moon, drummer of The Who who died after a party in 1978. Even after John Peel's return to his

show Stanshall continued to contribute to *Top Gear* and his Sir Henry Rawlinson items later formed the basis of a record album *Sir Henry at Rawlinson End*, which in turn spawned the film. With a comic lineage ranging from the Ealing Studios to Monty Python, with dollops of the Goons and the Alberts in between, this had a mixed reception, seeming to fall some way short of its cult classic pretensions. Nevertheless its distinguished cast, including Trevor Howard in the title role, Patrick Magee (always Samuel Beckett's favourite actor) and Stanshall himself delivering an eerie sing-song voice-over, ensured it was never less than totally zany. The Sir Henry philosophy, "If I had all the money I'd spend on drink I'd spend it all on drink", set the tone of the entertainment.

In the meantime Stanshall had done the narration for Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells* (1973) and made a few singles of increasingly manic tendencies. Huge, destructive drinking bouts with John Lennon and Keith Moon (neither of whom survived the decade) did nothing for his health and mental composure. He also became addicted to tranquillizers and after the filming of *Sir Henry* he retired to a boat on the Thames at Chertsey. There, for several years, he lived reclusively in the grip of depressions and anxiety states so profound that he was unable to do any more than the bare minimum to keep himself alive and ticking over.

Yet there was to be an at least momentary resurgence after Stanshall was persuaded by friends to wear himself off tranquillizers at a clinic near Weston-super-Mare. Returning to London, he took a flat in Muswell Hill where he dwelt among reproductions of Henri Rousseau pictures, trumpets, cassettes, stringed instruments, volumes of 17th-century lyric poetry, a speaking clock and his father's dentures.

There he re-established control of his much-abused faculties. He created a musical *Stinkfoot*, worked for a Pills Anonymous group, did further episodes of *Sir Henry* for radio and made TV commercials for Ruedesides — commercials which showed almost terminal drunkenness on the screen without, miraculously, drawing so much as a whimper of protest. To the end, his gifts were much admired by the current generation of stage and television comics.

Stanshall was twice married and had a son, but was living alone when he died.

THE RT REV NICHOLAS ALLENBY

The Rt Rev Nicholas Allenby, Bishop of Kuching, 1962-68, died on February 28 aged 86. He was born on January 28, 1909.



THOSE who knew Nicholas Allenby only in his latter years as a retired assistant bishop in the diocese of Worcester knew merely the half. The other half was a life lived actively and energetically in the Society of the Sacred Mission at Liverpool, at Kelham in Nottinghamshire, in Australia as Provincial and finally as Bishop of Kuching in Borneo from 1962 to 1968.

David Howard Nicholas Allenby was a distant relative of General Allenby who relieved Jerusalem in 1917. At the age of 19 he joined the then numerous and influential Society of the Sacred Mission, becoming a novice in 1930 and beginning his vocational training at the SSM Theological College at Kelham. The SSM at that stage still owed much to the style and character of its founder, Father Kelly, a man determined to bring sanctified common sense and Catholicism to the Church of England.

Ordained in 1934, Allenby served his title at St Jude's, West Derby, Liverpool and then returned to Kelham in 1936 to assist with the training of ordinands. He taught New Testament and is particularly remembered for his lectures on the Acts of the Apostles. At this time he became Cottage Master and looked after the boys who came to Kelham for their education after the fashion of the medieval religious houses.

Kelham is in the diocese of Southwell — and Southwell became Allenby's home diocese. As rector of Kelham with Averham he became chaplain to Bishop F. R. Barry, whose scholarship and episcopate he much admired. He organised

his rectory for private retreats and, as an increasingly influential figure, became a proctor in convocation for the diocese, rural dean of Newark for two years and Pro-Provincial of the English province of SSM. At this time he wrote his book, *Pray with the Church*, a title which accurately reflected his own way of life.

In 1957 Allenby was appointed Provincial of the Australian province of SSM, a post to which he brought much needed stability and common sense. In the same year he received a Lambeth MA from the hands of the then Archbishop, Geoffrey Fisher, of whose strength of character and gentleness he often spoke. As a non-graduate, he was especially touched by this honour.

From Australia he moved in 1962 to Borneo as Bishop of Kuching, where he spent six years. During this time he helped the diocese to become self-supporting and prepared the way for the appointment of a Dayak bishop. This coincided with the disappearance of colonial rule and the emergence of the independent Fed-

eration of Malaysia. Allenby was tireless in the care of his clergy, travelling many miles by boat — khaki drill shorts, pith helmet and all. His prime concern was for better living conditions for indigenous clergy; he was also a builder and the diocesan centre in Kuching was completed during his episcopate, a true spiritual power house in the region. He also founded an effective diocesan educational fund.

In 1968 all that was left behind and he settled in Malvern in the diocese of Worcester to become assistant bishop to his old friend Mervyn Charles-Edwards (formerly vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields) whom he had known from his Southwell days. He was also appointed by Charles-Edwards to be the diocesan director of ordinands — a post for which his early experience at Kelham had well qualified him.

As he moved towards retirement, the former dynamism, which had not always made him easy to work under, began to abate. He rejoiced in the confirmations in the Worcestershire villages which he was able to do for his diocese. He became a confessor and spiritual director to many clergy, and was latterly a highly regarded Master of St Oswald's, an almshouse foundation in Worcester.

This penultimate phase behind him, Allenby lived in the parish of St Stephen, Worcester, where many parishioners had reason to be grateful for his disciplined participation in the life of the parish, never looking for any form of special acknowledgement and always setting an example of humility and self-effacement. He welcomed visitors to his house and liked to talk of books and cats — and sometimes of his own travels.

He is survived by a brother and a sister.

TONY SECUNDA

Tony Secunda, pop music manager, died from a heart attack in Tiburon, California, on February 10 aged 54. He was born in London on August 24, 1940.

TONY SECUNDA played Svangeli to an impressive stable of pop artists in the 1960s — the Move, Procol Harum and the Moody Blues among them — and was one of the most skilful manipulators of the media among rock promoters of his generation. He was a maverick, much given to intellectual pronouncements on youth culture or the beneficial properties of marijuana, and some found him sinister — "like Olivier's portrayal of Richard III and not only in appearance", as one recalled. He went to great lengths to introduce his protégés to the world with some startling piece of publicity.

As with many of his ideas, he occasionally took things too far. The Move, for example, lost a substantial amount in royalties after Secunda had the idea of marketing their *Flowers in the Rain* single (1967) with a postcard featuring a naked caricature of the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson. Wilson sued the band successfully.

Secunda effectively retired from the business in the mid-1970s, though he might have been a successful comeback had he not lost interest in one of his later discoveries, the Pretenders, just before their crucial break in 1978. His business partner for many years, the less exorbitant record producer Denny Cordell, remained more of a force in the American music industry and recently had a success with a new band, the Cranberries.

But Secunda declined the opportunity to break into the harsher climate of pop management in the 1980s. He was, however, one of those managers who really shaped the

direction of popular music in this country during the 1960s. Anthony Michael Secunda was the son of a Russian émigré who had resettled from New York in London. After a Roman Catholic boarding school, he joined the Merchant Navy where his heavy drinking landed him in jail in Panama, Cyprus and Aden. He resurfaced in America where he was drawn into the music scene, returned to London and began to book gigs in youth clubs.

His first real success came with the Birmingham-based Moody Blues, a band which was looking for its first hit and which found it with a cover version of Bessie Banker's *Go Now*, topping the British charts in 1965. Despite the song also making the American Top Ten, the band's fortunes then declined temporarily amid much internal bickering.

Secunda left and found another Birmingham band in search of an identity, the Move. This he supplied by peppering their stage act with acts of "auto-destruct-

tion", then already made fashionable by The Who. Members of the Move energetically smashed their way through a series of television sets and cars on stage. After the debacle over the *Flowers in the Rain* single, however, they decided to part company with Secunda.

Secunda had, by this time, found what looked like an arguably even hotter property to handle, Procol Harum. Within eight weeks of being formed in 1967, this band had made their debut with *A Whiter Shade of Pale*, complete with a Bach-inspired melody and the most surreal lyrics: "We skipped the light fandango, turned cartwheels across the floor, I was feeling kind of seasick, the crowd cried out for more". A year later, though, Procol Harum was beginning to look dangerously like a one-hit wonder, and again Secunda left surrounded by some acrimony, though considerably wealthier from the experience.

He followed this up by negotiating a new deal for Marc Bolan in the early 1970s, and managed Steeleye Span, the English folk-rock group. By 1976 the punk movement, led by the Sex Pistols, was burgeoning under the equally astute management of Malcolm McLaren and Secunda was anxious to find the right sort of new punk band. He found a suitable vehicle in the Pretenders but left them before they had their big breaks with *Stop Your Sobbing* and *Brass in Pocket* in the late 1970s. In the early 1980s he briefly managed Marianne Faithfull.

He lived, latterly, in California, increasingly concerned with ecological issues, and had his own literary agency. He continued to be involved in record promotion, but he left deal-making to younger men. He is survived by his wife Franki and by three sons from a previous marriage.



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ROWLAND OWEN



Rowland Owen, CMG, Deputy Controller, HM Stationery Office, 1959-64, and Comptroller, Export Credit Guarantee Department, 1953-58, died on January 25 aged 91. He was born on June 3, 1903.

ROWLAND OWEN had the dual satisfaction of a long and successful career in the senior ranks of the Civil Service, followed by another one of 30 years duration in church music, choral conducting and organ playing.

The brother of Edwin Owen, who served as Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, 1976-81, Rowland Hubert Owen was born and brought up in the shadow of Armagh Cathedral. Both brothers graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, and in 1926 Rowland entered the Department of Overseas Trade, becoming private secretary to the Comptroller-General in 1930. During the next year he acted as secretary to the Gorell Committee on Art and Industry, then in 1934 took the Imperial Defence College course.

It was from 1936, however, that his career took its significant shape with a long period of overseas service. In that year he became commercial secretary at the Residency in Cairo; then, after joining the Ministry of Economic Warfare in 1939, he was appointed its representative in the Middle East in 1942 and the following year served as director of Anglo-American Economic Warfare Agencies at Allied Forces Headquarters, Mediterranean.

His transfer to the Board of Trade in 1944 led to another

overseas posting, as Senior UK Trade Commissioner in India, Burma and Ceylon; then in 1946 he became Economic Adviser to the UK High Commissioner in India, and the following year was Adviser to the UK Delegation at the International Trade Conference in Geneva. In recognition of his services he was appointed CMG in 1948.

Rowland Owen's final appointments were as Comptroller-General, Export Credit Guarantee Department, 1953-58, and Deputy Controller, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, from 1959 until his retirement in 1964.

He had always had a fine singing voice, and in retirement cultivated his musical interests, taking up organ playing, choir training and composition. He became organist and choirmaster successively at four churches in Hampshire and Surrey — St Mary's, Bramshot, 1964-70; St John the Evangelist, Farncombe, 1970-75; St Luke's, Grayshott, 1975-87; and, finally, Holy Trinity, Bramley, until his retirement from there in June last year. He was president of the Surrey Organists' Association in 1976 and its honorary secretary, 1977-83.

Rowland Owen was an articulate writer of learned papers, a skilled gardener and a cook of Cordon Bleu standard. He and his wife were genial and generous hosts at their charming home in Haslemere.

His first wife, Kathleen Margaret Evaline Scott, whom he married in 1930, died in 1965 and in the following year he married Shelagh Myrle Nicholson, who survives him. There were no children of either marriage.

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The readers of *The Times* are increasing more rapidly than at any time in its history excepting at periods of great national crises such as war.

The reduction in price from threepence to three halfpence to those who perform the simple operation of registering, has been received with marked public approval.

Typical of hundreds of letters is the following from a woman reader: "Together with the enclosed form I wish to add my tribute of appreciation of this fresh proof of *The Times* generosity. Its broad, wise, statesmanlike outlook had long since won my admiration and respect, and I rejoice to think that its influence will be even more far-reaching now that it is within the range of a larger public."

The number of new women readers is quite

ON THIS DAY

March 8 1922

Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of *The Times* 1908-22, anticipated present day press moguls in price cutting. Declaring it the "greatest leap in the history of *Printing House Square*" he slashed the price of the paper from 3d to 1st d. Aided by the promotion of free insurance, circulation rose 50 per cent in one month to 156,441.

a feature of the registrations. Popular approval has also been extended in a wide measure to *The Times* new insurance offer. Hitherto it had been confined to insuring regular readers against personal injuries through accidents to private motorists. The scope has now been greatly widened to provide compensation in the case of death and personal injuries through accidents to trains, trams, omnibuses, tractors, motor coaches, and certain passenger steamers. The benefits range from the payment of £1,000 to the legal representative of the case of a fatal accident to £4 a

week pension in the event of total permanent disablement...

The reduction in price from threepence to three halfpence calls to mind previous changes in the price of *The Times* which were as follows:

YEARS OF "THE TIMES"	PRICE
1785	3d.
1790	4d.
1794	4 ¹ / ₂ d.
1797	6d.
1809	6 ¹ / ₂ d.
1815	7d.
1836	7 ¹ / ₂ d.
1855	5 ¹ / ₂ d.
1855	4 ¹ / ₂ d.
1861	3 ¹ / ₂ d.
1913	2d.
1914	1 ¹ / ₂ d.
1916	1 ¹ / ₂ d.
1917	2d.
1918	3d.
1922	1 ¹ / ₂ d.

Throughout all these changes of price there has never been any variation in the quality of the news services of *The Times*. The foreign service is, without exception, the most costly and comprehensive in the world. It will be found shortly that Lord Northcliffe's tour has provided *The Times* with many new correspondents in places in which, hitherto, no journal has ever been directly represented.

The rest of *The Times* remains exactly as it is with its complete legal, Parliamentary, financial, social and sporting reports.

Classic FM's impressive ratings could be emulated by Radio 3 if it exploited its brand name and made overtures to foreign clients

A classic duet of British success

The next generation of radios is supposed to be ready next year (DAB, if you insist: digital audio broadcasting). But I really shouldn't wait that long to dump my car radio with its manual dial. I cannot go on driving through London traffic with one hand on the wheel and the other blindly shifting between Radio 3 and Classic FM.

I save Radio 4 for long journeys. Not only because then I can pay attention to sustained speech but also because Radio 4 goes out on the blessed long wave, which stays with you the length and breadth of the land. For the stop-start road experience of the inner city, however, I prefer classical music. Obviously the sensible solution would be simply to pick Radio 3 or Classic FM and stick with it.

But neither one will do on its own. I tend to start out with Radio 3. But the minute the world premiere is announced of a newly commissioned work for eight saxophones and a synthesizer, I'm off like a shot. Classic FM then seems

like home, a place of refuge for those of us who, if we never heard any music written later than Slegfried's Rhine Journey, would not even notice, let alone mind.

Yet before long I feel I'm drowning in treacle. Or mistletoe. (I swear I heard on Classic FM last week the fourth movement of Beethoven's Fifth identified as the second. I know I heard ITN's Ian Glover-James introduced as reporting from Singapore when his subsequent news item revealed him in Frankfurt.) And so back I go to the Reithian side.

Classic FM, all the same, is the success story of national commercial radio. Two and a half years old, the station pulls in 4.7 million listeners a week — twice as many as Radio 3. Matured, with a foreign pronunciation unit, it now equips its presenters with phonetic

spelling guides. Henry Kelly can get his tongue around *L'Après-Midi d'un faune* as smoothly as if it were *Tales from the Vienna Woods*.

Classic FM's main achievement lies in its unashamed appeal to the uninitiated. It will provide the name of any piece of music played on the air if listeners ring up and say when they heard it. And for those starting a collection its new magazine, *Classic FM*, recommends Beethoven's Fifth: the one that begins "da-da-da-dah".

How very different from Radio 3, which recognises the serious listener as one who buys more than one version of the same piece of music and who is willing to weigh 30 different performances of Sibelius's Second Symphony before settling on von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic because



BRENDA MADDOX

"nothing is over-stated, there is an abundant sense of atmosphere and the temptation to build up excessive climaxes is held in check".

Radio 3 is a success story too. In the face of competition, it has held its audience fairly steady over the past year at 2.5 million a week. Moreover, it has survived the cost-conscious and yoo-f-oriented BBC management, which continues to

allow Radio 3 to absorb nearly a quarter of the £233 million budget for BBC network radio to reach only 1.5 per cent of the listening population.

But why should a country that can happily support a Classic FM need such a costly, public-broadcasting counterpart? The answer to the free-marketters ought to be that Radio 3 is utterly different — that its commitment to live performances and new works is an unparalleled contribution to national culture. The argument, however, would be easier to make if the two stations were not starting, like an elder and a younger brother, to imitate each other without admitting it.

Radio 3 has tried to popularise its accents and choice of music. At rush hour particularly — a Marche Militaire here and a Trout

Quintet there — its fare is scarcely distinguishable from Classic FM's. And some of its non-musical subjects are as doggedly down-market as anything elsewhere anywhere on the BBC: "insights" into popular songs such as *Over the Rainbow* and *Zip a-Dee-Do-Do*. And exploration of British culture including its foods like bubble and squeak and lardy cake.

Meanwhile, over at Classic FM, they are venturing so deep into serious speech that, not content with having taken over *Gardener's Question Time* from Radio 4, they now discuss the fall of Barings or the future of drama so thoroughly that fair stretches of airtime have no music at all. And each station is doing its very best this year to make us all sick of Purcell and Tippett.

Where these two very British

approaches to classical music could collide is abroad. Classic FM plans to franchise its format to stations across the United States; it has recently won licences for stations in Sweden, Holland, and Finland where, to the chagrin of some at the BBC, one of its news-suppliers is the BBC World Service.

But Classic FM's new magazine will not easily catch up with the BBC's *Music Monthly*. The BBC's magazine has become the world's most successful classical music magazine. It has 200,000 subscribers for its American edition alone, selling worldwide because of the BBC's "brand name".

The way ahead for Radio 3 is thus clear. Let it too put itself into the hands of BBC Worldwide and franchise its successful recipe abroad. In the fragmenting world of radio, high seriousness commands a niche market. And the brand name could hardly be better, unless perhaps it were to go back to calling itself the Third Programme.

Don't let a good story get away

Alexandra Frean reports on a new series of topical dramas which blur the lines between fact and fiction

Banking on the fact that truth can sometimes be stranger than fiction, and at times a lot funnier, the BBC is to produce a series of topical films based on real-life events as part of an ambitious attempt to revitalise its drama output.

Unlike conventional documentary-dramas, the films will be produced and screened in record time: within two months of the events depicted in them actually taking place, and while they are still fresh in the public's memory.

The first in the occasional dramas, a comedy called *A Very Open Prison*, will be screened on March 26. It tells the story of a beleaguered Home Secretary, played by Tom Wilkinson, facing a series of crises in the prison service, which he is attempting to privatise. A serial killer commits suicide in his cell and three maximum security inmates, one of them a psychotic killer, escape from a flagship jail.

The fugitive prisoners hole up in an orphanage, taking the children hostage. They also capture a visiting Tory MP, who is desperately needed in the Commons where the Government is facing a vote of no-confidence on Europe.

Although some of the plot is pure fiction, nobody could argue after the recent escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst prisons, Fred West's suicide in jail and the ongoing Commons rumpus about Europe, that most of the events depicted in the story are far-fetched.

It is this topicality that attracted David Thompson, an executive producer at the BBC, to the project. "This is refreshing. We want to revive the tradition of television as a medium that responds to what is going on," he says. "Writers of programmes such as *That Was the Week That Was* showed what you can do when you are working rapidly and firing on all cylinders. That has carried on with some of



Real-life search for escaped prisoners at Parkhurst is mirrored by...

today's comedy shows, but it has largely disappeared from television drama."

Mr Thompson, who hopes to produce around four topical dramas a year for the BBC, concedes that rushing through such projects at break-neck speed is a high-risk strategy. "You can only do it if you have a writer capable of turning out a sharp script in only a few days. We had confidence that our writer, Guy Jenkins, could do it because of

A Very Open Prison has been considerably cheaper to make than the average BBC2 single drama.

He is now so fired with the concept that he is thinking forward to future projects. Other recent long-running news stories which would have made good television, he says, are the Tories' "Back to Basics" campaign and the Barings bank collapse.

In the midst of all this enthusiasm, however, Mr Jenkins, who completed the script for the hour-long film in five days, admits that the genre raises serious moral and legal questions. How, for example, will Fred West's children react to the portrayal of the prison suicide in *A Very Open Prison*?

The action takes place in a parallel universe and shows the holly of politicians and of human behaviour," Mr Jenkins says. "None of the characters are supposed to be impersonating real people. The Home Secretary does not speak in Michael Howard's voice." To prove the point, he has confused real-life identities by giving the politicians in the piece criminals' names, such as Hanratty, Turpin and Fawkes.

'We want television to be a medium that responds to what is going on'

his experience in writing for the Channel 4 comedy, *Drop the Dead Donkey*," he says. "The trickiest obstacle facing the project was persuading the BBC to telescope its normal commissioning process, which frequently takes up to two years, into a few days. Unusually, Mr Thompson met little resistance from the corporation — not least, one suspects, because, at a cost of £500,000, A



... Peter Wingfield and Tom Wilkinson in *A Very Open Prison*

He concedes, however, that there are some real-life events, such as the murder of James Bulger, which he would never touch because they are too sensitive.

"There is no philosophy or code behind it," he says. "You just have to use your instincts and think very hard about what you are doing beforehand."

But mixing the comic and the serious is part of television's role as a medium of entertainment and information, he says. "Television can lose its edge when it takes itself too seriously. Equally, some of the best television comedy, going right back to programmes like *Steptoe*, has an underlying seriousness."

The idea for producing instant drama came to the BBC from Geoffrey Perkins of Hat Trick, the independent production company best known for *Drop the Dead Donkey* and *Have I Got News for You*. He believes that topical

pieces, such as *A Very Open Prison*, will add an extra frisson to the public's enjoyment because they will recognise and respond to the events and characters depicted.

"It works as a drama in its own right, but there are a lot of references in it that people will enjoy picking up," he says.

Casting the production at a week's notice was easy, Mr Perkins says, because if the actors were not working already they could start filming straight away: there was no interference to long-term plans.

Finding the locations, research and film editing have been harder work as all the different aspects of production have to happen in parallel. Most of the scenes set in Downing Street and the prison are being shot in Hanworth Park House in Feltham, west London, and Mr Perkins managed to persuade the governor of Oxford Prison to let him film there.

The classless media myth

Roy Greenslade asks how jobs in media could be made more accessible

Media is a buzz word with youth. Countless thousands of the nation's youngest and finest now vie every year to break into newspapers and the ever-expanding fields of television and radio. Competition is fierce, but a supposedly glamorous career in media is so sought-after that there is a never-ending supply of recruits.

A university education has long been a requirement to break into television. And most national broadsheets have always arranged some kind of fast-track entry route for graduates. But regional and local newspapers now routinely demand university qualifications too.

Four universities — City of London, Cardiff, Preston and Strathclyde — offer post-graduate courses in practical journalism which virtually guarantee their students jobs. There is also a good chance that students from the London College of Printing (LCP) will get into the industry after their three-year journalism degree course.

Unsurprisingly, applications for all these courses are therefore heavily oversubscribed. LCP estimates that only one in ten of those who apply get in. At City, there are more than 1,000 hopefuls every year for just 30 places. Preston and Cardiff report similar figures.

But this apparently rosy situation for newspapers, in which the best are selected and groomed — without any cost to employers — is now under attack.

The problem, according to both academics and Britain's regional editors, is that the intake is too well-heeled. "It's too middle-class and too white to serve a diverse community," argues Professor Brian Winston, director of Cardiff's Centre for Journalism Studies.

His centre has just carried out a survey for the Guild of Editors which revealed that 68 per cent of journalism trainees on regional and local papers were graduates and two-thirds described themselves as middle-class.

The problem is that, with the

removal of discretionary grants and the squeeze on local authority funding, a journalism student is expected to find at least £6,000 for the year.

According to Professor Peter Cole, of the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, these students must be prepared to live with mounting debt or rely on rich parents. "That problem is compounded by the low starting salaries on regional papers," he says. "Young journalists cannot earn enough in the early years to pay off loans. The system favours plummy accents from the Home Counties."

The National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ), the industry's own scheme, tells a similar story. Chief executive Rob Selwood says the 400 students who train at NCTJ-accredited colleges every year face funding problems. He says: "It means no black faces."

This is confirmed by Dr Beulah Ainley, who has carried out a study into the lack of blacks and Asians in the media. Though she contends that racism is a major factor, most journalism academics believe economics is the root cause.

One dissenting voice is Wynford Hicks, head of City University's burgeoning journalism course. He argues that the collapse of traditional English teaching in schools has contributed to the failure of working-class youth and ethnic groups to obtain training and jobs.

Editors complain that even the trainees they do appoint, from whatever background, lack basic English skills. But their main concern remains the failure to attract a more diverse group of recruits and they blame a lack of student funding.

On the other hand, British students are more fortunate than most of their European counterparts, where there is no tradition of grants. As one academic asked without a hint of sarcasm: "Have you ever met a working-class French journalist?"

Golden oldies are still tops

VIEWS of Channel 4 and BBC2 might occasionally think they have been caught in a time warp, *Alexandra Frean* writes. At least six of the programmes in this week's ratings chart, which focuses on the two channels, are classic repeats from the Sixties and Seventies.

The trick for those scheduling programmes is to find archive material that not only appeals to those older viewers who may harbour a deep-felt

nostalgia for a golden television age of the past, but also to draw in the younger teenage generation who may never have seen these gems before.

Steptoe and Son, written by Alan Simpson and Ray Galton and starring Wilfrid Brambell as the grubby and quarrelsome Albert and Harry H. Corbett as his restless son Harold, was one of the comedy highlights of the Sixties and beats all the other oldies in our chart.

The honours for new programmes go to Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* documentary on February 13 about motor accidents. Entitled, "A" is for Accident, the programme not only out-performed BBC2, but also beat the *Nine O'Clock News* on BBC1.

The first episode of *Hearts and Minds*, Channel 4's new relentlessly bleak schoolroom drama written by Jimmy McGovern, attracted a respectable 3.8 million viewers.

Amazing rediscovery: the phone

The humble telephone is back as a top marketing tool

Forget the information superhighway. The really hot interactive medium that is sweeping marketing is far more mundane and humble. The old-fashioned telephone, having shaken up insurance and banking, is breaking boundaries.

Last week, Richard Branson launched Virgin Direct. Like other direct operations, it offers a double marketing bonus of lower costs and more convenience. Last weekend, while most competitors were shut, Virgin Direct was open from 8am to 10pm.

Phone-based businesses such as Virgin Direct, Direct Line and First Direct are just the tip of a growing phone-marketing iceberg. Computer companies are running huge helpline operations to aid customers when their machines go wrong. Flora, Persil and other packaged-goods companies have 0800 customer-care lines and more and more businesses are using telesales operators to replace expensive sales people, or to organise appointments. Some mail-order catalogues do more than 90 per cent of their business by phone. And one in five packaged holidays are now booked direct with the tour operator, bypassing the travel agent.

New, entirely phone-based operations are emerging, from share and cricket-score information lines to telephone car auctions and outfits such as



Richard Branson and a card for his new brainchild

the London-based Local Heroes, which uses high-tech call-routing technology to enable consumers to use only one freephone line to contact pizza shops, funeral parlours and other local services. The number of 0800 and 0345 calls

last year reached 540 million, and BT will this month introduce the 0897 premium line which, for £1.50 a minute, will offer services such as legal advice and faxed sheet music. All this, says Howard Sandom, BT's marketing

manager for telemarketing, is part of an emerging phone culture. He says the phone recently overtook face-to-face meetings and letters as the main means of doing business. He predicts that over the next five years, telemarketing will soar from a £200-million-a-year business to £2 billion.

Yet Britain still has a long way to go. Its systems are not as advanced as those in America. And marketers are finding it difficult to manage the way in which telemarketing is blurring the boundaries between previously separate operations such as market research, cus-

their telephone operators. How far will the telemarketing revolution go? Some industry experts contend that logistical obstacles will limit phone-ordering to high-value items such as computers and furniture, or services like travel and insurance. But as consumer demand for convenience grows, that may change.

Colin Lloyd, chief executive of the Direct Marketing Association, says: "The telephone will be the supermarket car park of tomorrow. You won't need to park your car; you will have only to put your fingers on the button. The shop will come to you."

The biggest breakthrough would be grocery home shopping. Most recent experiments have failed. But Food Ferry, which delivers the weekly grocery shop to about 1,500 Londoners' doors, is, says Jonathan Harnell-Beavis, its director, growing at 40 per cent a year.

More could be on the way. As Bob Tyrrell, the Henley Centre's chief executive, told a media conference last week, "Don't tell me logistics won't allow it. You can be just about anywhere in the northwestern part of the hemisphere and you will be half an hour away from a pizza. If they can do it with pizzas, why not elsewhere? Why can't I phone at 10pm and say... I want ten cans of dog food — now?"

ALAN MITCHELL

THE TIMES TV TOP 20: BBC2 v CHANNEL 4

February 13 to 19, 1995

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Aud (m)	Alt 4+
1 Cutting Edge: "A" is for accident	Mon	13:21:01	CH44	Uden Associates	Documentary	7.2	
2 The X-Files	Thu	16:21:03	BBC2	20th Century Fox	Drama Series	6.5	
3 Top Gear	Thu	16:20:33	BBC2	BBC Pebble Mill	Lifestyle	6.5	
4 Blue Steel (1980)	Sun	18:22:03	CH44	Lightening Pictures	Film	5.9	
5 Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens	Fri	17:20:31	BBC2	Catalyst Television	Lifestyle	5.5	
6 Bare Essentials	Wed	15:21:01	BBC2	Republio Pictures Int	Film	5.5	
7 Food and Drink	Tue	14:20:30	BBC2	Bazal Productions	Lifestyle	5.4	
8 Brookside	Tue	14:20:30	CH44	Brookside Productions	Soap	5.2	
9 Countdown	Tue	14:16:31	CH44	Yorkshire Television	Game Show	4.8	
10 Steptoe and Son	Fri	17:21:01	BBC2	BBC	Sit-com	4.4	
11 Star Trek: The Next Generation	Wed	15:17:59	BBC2	Paramount Picture Corp	Drama Series	4.2	
12 Styles	Tue	14:21:01	BBC2	BBC	Sit-com	4.0	
13 Natural World: Monkey in the Mirror	Sun	19:18:10	BBC2	BBC Bristol	Documentary	4.0	
14 Roseanne	Fri	17:22:01	CH44	The Carney-Werner Co	Sit-com	4.0	
15 Hearts and Minds	Thu	16:22:04	CH44	Witand Productions	Drama serial	3.8	
16 Rising Damp	Fri	17:21:30	CH44	Yorkshire Television	Sit-com	3.4	
17 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased)	Fri	17:18:25	BBC2	ITC Entertainment (UK)	Drama Series	3.4	
18 The World at War	Wed	15:19:31	BBC2	Thames Television	Documentary	3.3	
19 Only When I Laugh	Mon	13:20:29	CH44	Yorkshire Television	Sit-com	3.3	
20 Don't Forget Your Toothbrush	Sat	18:21:01	CH44	Yorkshire Television Prod	Entertainments	3.1	

BBC2 (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) David Graham & Associates 01823-322829 Copyright: unauthorized reproduction. Copyright: unauthorized reproduction. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).



ARTS 37-39

Lisa Harrow brings rare warmth to a revival of Rattigan



HOMES 41

Return of the ready to move into house



SPORT 42-48

Who gains most from cricket's benefit system?

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8 1995

Currency turmoil upsets EU plans

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GROWING turbulence on the world's currency markets yesterday forced the European Union's Monetary Committee to cancel a meeting called to discuss technical details on moving to a single currency.

The committee, which decided on devaluations for the peseta and the escudo after a marathon weekend session, felt that to hold a meeting today in the midst of currency turmoil would attract undue attention.

Although politicians have this week continued to argue that progress towards the single currency and monetary union remains intact, events in the currency markets appear to throw considerable doubt on the enterprise.

Yesterday, the dollar rout that has been threatening for days reached crisis point as the US currency slumped to another low, not just against

the bank would be watching the movement of the pound to determine whether the move is "deep-seated" or "erratic".

Mr George meets Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, for their monthly monetary meeting today but few in the City expect a base rate rise to defend the pound so soon after base rates were raised last month.

The two men are likely to baulk at a rate rise on currency grounds, particularly now. Firstly, the Barings crisis and worries about liquidity in the financial system militates against tighter money.

Secondly, sterling's problems are not isolated but part of a huge switch in funds from the dollar to the mark.

Thirdly, the British authorities, better than anyone, know that raising interest rates to defend a currency is often counterproductive.

One extra reason for sterling weakness yesterday was large scale selling of the pound against the yen by Barings as it sought to close out its loss-making positions in the Far East.

the yen but also the mark. And as investment funds continued to flood into quality currencies such as the mark and the Swiss franc, several European currencies, including the pound, the franc, the peseta, the escudo and the Swedish crown, dropped to lows against the mark.

The peseta, which was devalued by 7 per cent, dropped more than half way down its permitted new range in the exchange-rate mechanism, making a nonsense of hopes last August that 15 per cent fluctuation bands would never be tested by Europe's currencies.

The Spanish currency was not helped by Pedro Solbes, Spain's Economy Minister, who said that he would have preferred a 12 per cent devaluation.

Sterling was battered, hitting a record low of DM2.2573. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said that

CBF backed on EMU... 26
Anthony Harrold... 29

Sharp drop in provisions brings in £1.86bn

Barclays profits soar 181%

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS BANK started a wide-scale examination of its management controls last week after the collapse of Barings. Martin Taylor, chief executive, said: "The question we ask is could this happen here? We have come to the conclusion that it could not."

Barings collapsed after a trader in Singapore ran up huge losses. Since then it has emerged that Barings appears to have ignored warnings that the trader had too much power, with control of trading and settlement activities.

Andrew Buxton, chairman, said: "We have already started a serious review of our own controls to see what we can learn. I am not complacent. Although we believe our controls are good, we will always be investing in them."

He was unveiling a 181 per cent leap in Barclays' profits to £1.86 billion in 1994, after provisions for bad debts fell sharply by £1.27 billion to £602 million. The total dividend of 21p, up from 15.15p, was above the 19p expected by City analysts. The final payment, of 15p is due on May 16.

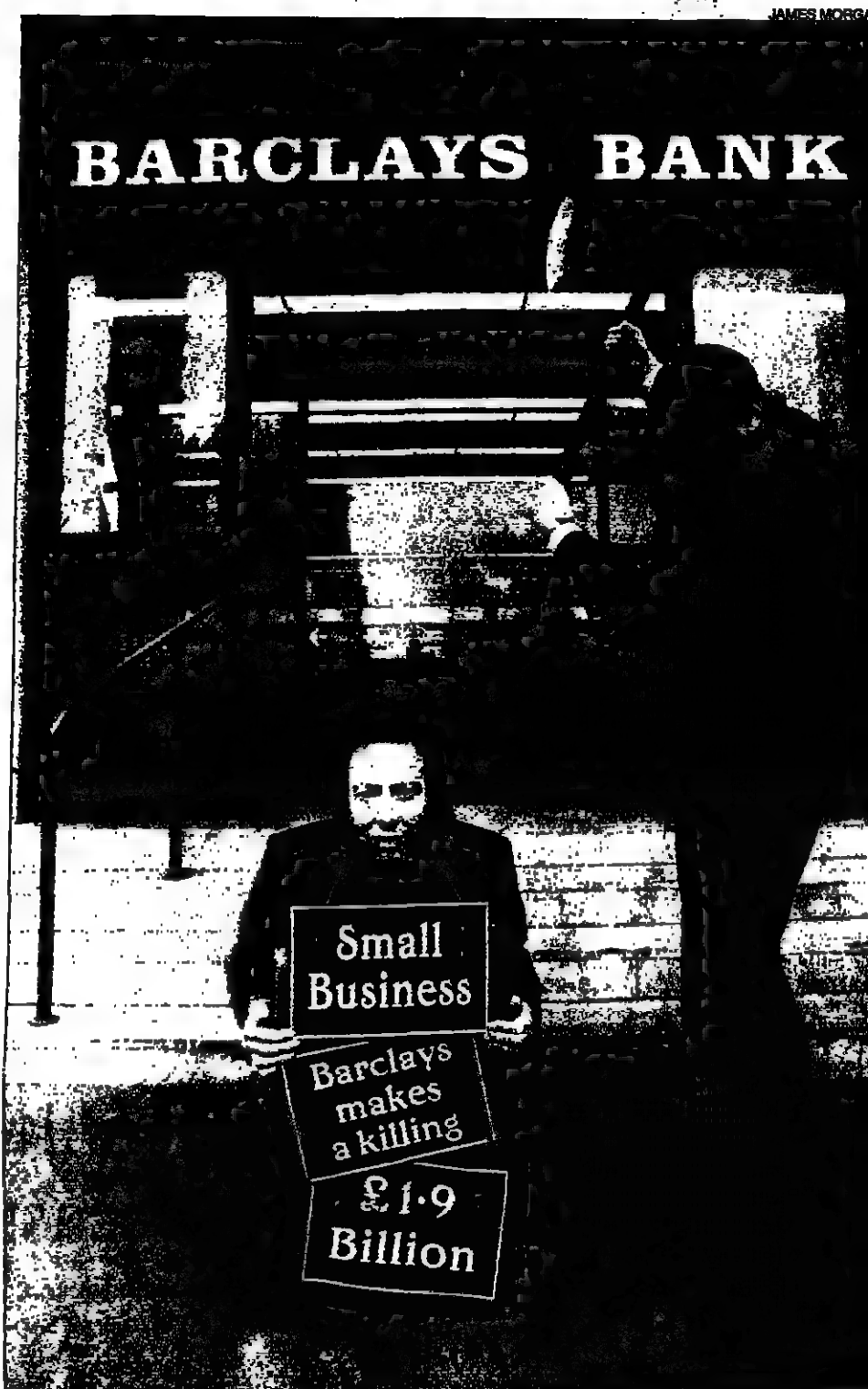
The bank's 70,845 staff will participate. They will receive 7.5 per cent of their salaries, up from 2.5 per cent last year, at a cost of £76 million to the bank.

Mr Taylor said the bank had been "trying to understand the cost of our lending better." It made gross new and specific provisions of £1.13 billion, the highest proportion being in UK banking.

While other banks are reducing general provisions, Barclays is trying "to remove some of the false volatility from our accounts." He said after attempting to grade each of its corporate loans, and grading consumer loans by sample based on its evaluation of past and current loss rates and analysing credit gradings, the bank had also made a £74 million general provision to cover possible future losses.

Barclays is also changing the mix of its assets, he said, and continuing to exit low-margin business. Profits from UK banking services contributed most to the profits recovery, up from £567 million to £1.2 billion, after a fall in bad debt provisions from £1.19 billion to £485 million.

Mr Taylor said loan demand had been weak, but picked up in the second half. Mortgage loans now comprise one fifth of loans to UK customers. Staff numbers fell by 2,000 to 53,800, as branch jobs were



Profit block: Protesters outside a Barclays Bank branch in London yesterday

cut. Barclays Financial Services, its pensions and insurance arm, saw profits tumble from £213 million to £123 million, hit by problems in Barclays Life, where the sales force has been retrained. Barclays Life raised provisions for compensating customers for the mis-selling of pension transfers by £27 million to £58 million.

Corporate and Institutional Banking Services, set up last May to handle the needs of the

bank's large corporate and institutional clients, raised pre-tax profits to £74 million from £46 million.

Mr Taylor said problems in France continue, and the bank would embark on a restructuring there. Losses in Barclays' European business fell from £150 million to £110 million.

Profits at BZW, Barclays' investment banking arm, crashed from £32 million to £242 million after a slump in dealing volumes in foreign-

exchange, fixed-income and equities markets that sent dealing profits down from £625 million to £384 million. BZW's bad debt provisions fell from £63 million to £1 million. Fees and commissions rose from £430 million to £443 million.

Barclays' other international and private banking operations showed a £1 million profit rise to £175 million.

Tempos, page 28

Northern gives blessing to bid by Trafalgar

BY ERIC REGULY AND MARTIN WALLER

IN A dramatic reversal, Northern Electricity yesterday dropped its three-month defence campaign and recommended that shareholders accept Trafalgar House's £1.23 billion offer for company.

The announcement came after Professor Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Electricity Supply, announced that new electricity price controls may be imposed after a price review, the second within a year.

A statement from Northern, after the market closed, said it had "reluctantly" decided it could no longer insist on a rejection. The cash element of the bid closes on Friday, and Northern was advising shareholders either to accept the cash, or consult their professional advisers on whether to sell in the market.

The Littlechild statement wiped almost a fifth off Northern's market capitalisation, the shares falling 158p to 879p.

Trafalgar is in talks with Professor Littlechild about regulatory undertakings that are required to allow its offer to progress. The company would only say that the cash offer had to be accepted by 1pm on Friday.

Also called into question is the future of the National Grid, the electricity transmission system owned by the 12 regional electricity companies. They had hoped to sell their stakes in the Grid by the summer and pass the proceeds, estimated at £4.5 billion, to their own shareholders.

Bryan Townsend, chairman of Midlands Electricity and a director of the Grid, said the sale of the Grid depended on whether Professor Littlechild's review results in tighter electricity price controls. If it does, and the controls are severe, the electricity companies simply may decide they cannot afford to sell the Grid. Mr Townsend said: "We may not be able to pass on the customer dividend."

John Wilson, an analyst at UBS Securities, said: "I can't see anyone buying into this industry when the regulatory regime is unsure."

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	2977.0	(-24.9)
FT-SE All share	4,495	(-15.05)
Nikkei	16855.28	(-55.44)
Dow Jones	3855.03	(-42.53)
S&P Composite	480.40	(-5.23)
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	7 5/8%	(7 5/8%)
3-month Treasury	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Life long gilt	100%	(101 1/4)
Future (Mar)		
New York	1.8440	(1.8280)
London	1.5408	(1.5321)
DM	2.2572	(2.2825)
FF	8.0700	(8.1000)
Yen	80.80	(82.67)
Yen	148.07	(151.07)
\$ Index	85.5	(87.7)

London	1.3730	(1.4048)
DM	4.9470	(4.9780)
FF	1.1538	(1.1744)
Yen	80.80	(82.67)
\$ Index	91.4	(91.7)

Tokyo close Yen 92.70

North Sea Oil
Brent 15-day (May) \$16.75 (\$16.75)

GOLD
London close \$381.48 (\$376.75)

* denotes midday trading price

De La Rue shares plunge by 143p

BY MARTIN WALLER

A TRADING statement from De La Rue, the banknote printer that earlier this year bought Portals Group, the specialist paper maker, has sparked a big slide in the share price.

However, Jeremy Marshall, the chief executive, denied that the acquisition, at a price regarded in the City as extremely high, had gone sour. "This is nothing to do with Portals. It's not supposed to be a profits warning and we believe the market as it stands at the moment has overreacted," he said.

He was responding to a 143p slide in De La Rue's share price to 899p, after the company announced the intention to sell all the Portals businesses outside its security paper-making operations, which include the production of banknotes.

De La Rue also said trading continued in line with expectations, but the City could expect only "modest" growth in earnings in the 1995-96 financial year, the first full year after the acquisition.

Mr Marshall added: "Nothing has changed on the Portals front in the short time since we bought it. We're perfectly happy with what we have found now we're inside."

Sonia Falaschi, printing analyst at UBS, the broker, said: "The reason the shares have reacted to such a degree over a relatively minor profits update is that this is the first negative piece of news this management has given the City, and the timing is somewhat unfortunate."

Tempos, page 28

Wellcome capitulates to Glaxo's bid

BY SARAH BAGNALL



Sir Richard: "pleased"

WELLCOME'S management yesterday caved in to the £9 billion offer from Glaxo, the rival drugs group, after failing to find a white knight.

The Wellcome board reluctantly recommended that shareholders accept the offer after two potential bidders pulled out of negotiations. The recommendation clears the way for Glaxo's offer, which closes today and, if successful, will create the largest drugs company in the world.

The news lifted Glaxo's shares 19p to 667p while Wellcome's shares slipped 9p to £10.27 — compared with the offer price of £10.49 a share. Zeneca also benefited from the news, with its shares rising 14p to 878p, reflecting the market's relief that it was not launching a counter offer as rumoured.

Wellcome said that one potential white

knight — which analysts believe was Zeneca — was prepared to top Glaxo's offer by about £500 million. But the offer depended on the Wellcome Trust, Wellcome's main shareholder, with 39.5 per cent of the equity, assuring that the offer had a good chance of being irrevocably accepted. Sources close to the deal said Zeneca was only prepared to make a higher offer if the trust agreed to a lock-out that would prevent Glaxo coming back with a higher offer.

Bernard Taylor, a director at Flemings, adviser to the trust, said: "We wanted to receive offers from white knights, but we received none."

However, Wellcome's advisers are believed to have produced to the trust a letter from an anonymous potential bidder. Wellcome asked the trust to apply for High Court permission for it to take steps to assure the counterbidder a good

chance of success. The trust declined to do so on legal advice that that it risked breaching its agreement with Glaxo. The bidder then withdrew.

A second potential bidder — thought to be Roche — then pulled out on Sunday night.

John Robb, Wellcome's chairman and chief executive, said: "It is obviously disappointing that neither of the two remaining potential counter-bidders decided to make an offer."

The deal is expected to result in significant rationalisation, incurring job losses among Glaxo's worldwide workforce of 44,000 and Wellcome's of 17,500. Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chief executive, said he was "very pleased" that Wellcome had decided to recommend the offer.

Pennington, page 27

Bondholders seek more for Barings

BY ROBERT MILLER

BONDHOLDERS of £100 million worth of Barings subordinated loan notes are mounting a last ditch bid to force ING, the new Dutch owner of Barings, to increase its offer of £5 million. ING is expected to complete the deal within the next 48 hours.

ABN Amro, which bid for parts of Barings, yesterday held a meeting with fund managers holding Barings' loan notes. Among institutions that invested in the notes are Scottish Amicable and Legal & General. Separately, a number of life offices holding

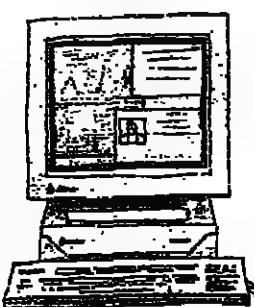
Barings' preference shares are angry that under the ING deal they receive nothing.

There is also concern as to how smaller banks and building societies will raise much-needed finance in the capital markets after the fate of Barings' bondholders.

Patrick Whittingdale, chairman of Whittingdale, a firm which manages £15 billion of fixed-interest investments, says that yields on such bonds are bound to rise, "reflecting the greater risks involved."

Hu interview, page 26

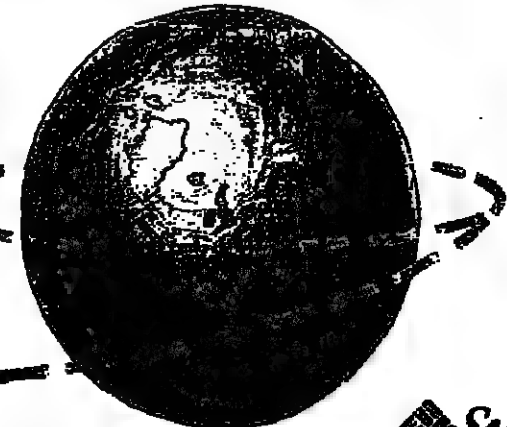
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Chambers back CBI stance on EMU

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LEADERS of Britain's chambers of commerce yesterday declared their support for the United Kingdom delaying any moves towards a single currency until economic circumstances are clearer.

The decision by the governing national council of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) gives further business support to mainstream government economic thinking and furthers the division among business leaders over the controversial issue of economic and monetary union (EMU).

The national council decided to support Britain keeping its options open on EMU but continuing to be fully involved in negotiations on the establishment of a single currency.

Robin Geldard, BCC President, said after the council's bi-monthly meeting: "Britain should keep itself at the heart of the discussions about whether we should have monetary union, and if so how."

Chambers' leaders are broadly predisposed towards a single currency, with many small firms in particular believing that one currency would make international trade easier. However, BCC leaders acknowledged yesterday that the weekend's turmoil in the currency markets with the devaluation of the Spanish and Portuguese currencies had made some small businesses nervous about being caught within full EMU.

Chambers' leaders acknowledged privately that the decision placed the businesses they represented broadly in step with the attitude towards the single currency expressed by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and by both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, and not in line with the sceptical attitude towards a European-wide currency associated with Conservative right-wingers.

The move also sees the chambers lining up with the Confederation of British Industry, which is also arguing that while no immediate decision over EMU should be taken yet, business is broadly in favour of a single currency when the conditions are right. But the chambers' move leaves the free-market Institute of Directors (IoD) on its own among principal business organisations in arguing strongly against a single currency.

Tim Melville-Ross, IoD Director-General, said yesterday that a number of EU countries would be unable to join monetary union for several years, or perhaps decades. He added: "In my view, a single currency cannot be made to work in Europe in the foreseeable future."

Anthony Harris, page 29

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.30	2.13
Austria S	17.03	16.52
Belgium F	46.94	45.84
Canada C	8.408	8.243
Cyprus Cyp	0.768	0.738
Denmark Kr	9.80	9.00
Finland Mk	7.89	6.94
France F	8.33	7.77
Germany Dm	2.48	2.22
Greece Dr	388.00	383.00
Hong Kong H	13.18	12.73
Ireland P	1.08	0.98
Israel S	5.327	4.577
Italy Lit	3072.00	2852.00
Japan Yen	164.50	148.50
Malta M	0.508	0.504
Netherlands Gld	2.708	2.475
Norway Kr	10.73	9.93
Portugal Esc	200.00	192.00
S Africa Rd	1.00	0.93
Spain Ptas	216.00	202.00
Sweden Kr	12.87	11.87
Switzerland F	2.03	1.88
Turkey Lira	1.00	0.918
USA \$	1.720	1.680

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Chris Scott, finance director, left, and Peter Redfern, Partco managing director

Partco hoists profits £2.3m

By Martin Barrow

PARTCO GROUP, the distributor of automotive parts whose shares were floated on the stock market a year ago, increased taxable profits to £6.2 million in the 12 months to December 31 from £3.9 million previously.

Earnings were 16.6p a share, rising from 10.1p. There

is a final dividend of 4.2p, making a total of 6.2p for the year, compared with 5.4p last time.

Gordon Yardley, the chairman, said: "We have seen a period of strong organic growth since the group's flotation, in spite of an indifferent economic background and

very competitive conditions in our market place." Turnover was up 9.8 per cent to £136.4 million from £124.3 million in the previous 12 months.

Woodhead RSR, a subsidiary, is acquiring Autotrust, the vehicle parts distribution business of GRT Bus Group, for about £800,000.

Singapore better regulated, says Hu

FROM NEIL BENNETT IN SINGAPORE

RICHARD HU, the Finance Minister of Singapore, has said that the Barings crash could not have happened to a Singaporean bank due to the greater efficiency of the country's regulators.

In an oblique criticism of the Bank of England, Dr Hu said that Singaporean regulators would have acted against the lack of internal controls in Barings that allowed Nick Leeson to run up the huge futures positions that caused the bank to crash.

He said: "Our regular inspections by the Monetary Authority of Singapore look at internal controls. Any difficulty is put down on paper and banks have to report back on them. If they do not, they are fined and disciplined. That is why we have a reputation for being over-regulated here."

Dr Hu said that Barings had not been as tightly regulated as a bank in Singapore because it was a trading company rather than a bank with personal deposits and he questioned whether Mr Leeson would have been given a licence to operate on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) under regulations being introduced, due to his record in Singapore for indecent exposure.

Dr Hu insisted that the failure of Barings had had no impact on Singapore's growing financial markets and welcomed the takeover.

"A loss of one billion is not small change, but it is not disastrous for the financial markets," he said.

Singapore authorities investigating the collapse of Barings are thought to be examining the so-called "Barings tapes", which contain records of all Mr Leeson's deals and telephone calls for up to the past two years.

Videotapes made by Simex show Mr Leeson trading heavily in Japanese stock market futures. Tapes of telephone calls, made by Barings, are thought to have been seized by Price Waterhouse, the judicial managers for Barings Futures.

Britain sells Atomic services arm to US

THE Government has sold the Atomic Energy Authority services arm, which has 950 employees and contracts worth £60 million a year, to Procord, part of Johnson Controls of the US. The deal provides for Procord to take over provision of services ranging from light engineering to catering at six AEA sites in England and Scotland. The sites will remain the property of the Government, together with their estimated £3 billion to £5 billion of nuclear decommissioning liabilities.

However, much of the work carried out by Procord will be done for AEA Technology, which occupies the sites as a tenant, and which the government hopes to privatise in the spring of next year. The contracts, lasting from four to six years, will almost double the turnover of Procord in the UK. Procord was recommended from a shortlist of four bidders drawn up by Coopers & Lybrand, which advised the Government on the sale.

Hi-Tec executive goes

HI-TEC SPORTS has lost its finance director less than two weeks after the sports shoe group issued a profits warning. Peter Butler, who has been with the group for almost two years, has left to pursue a business venture in the sports sector and is currently looking for backing from venture capitalists. He will be succeeded by John Fallon, the former managing director of Sears' sports and leisurewear division. A Hi-Tec spokesman said Mr Butler's departure was totally unrelated to the group's recent trading statement.

CRH lifts dividend

CRH, the Dublin-based building materials group, expects more acquisitions this year after boosting pre-tax profits 52 per cent to Ir£116 million in 1994. CRH bought 18 businesses last year for Ir£159 million as part of its plan to spread to a wider market. New businesses brought in Ir£9.9 million at the operating level and Don Godson, chief executive, expects further investments in less developed countries. CRH operating profits jumped 36 per cent to Ir£121 million. There is a full-year 8.1p dividend, up 12 per cent.

Canadian Pizza sags

CANADIAN PIZZA expects profits to fall further due to the loss in 1994 of a major slice of business from J Sainsbury, its largest client, resulting in the loss of more than £3 million of sales and knocking over £1 million off profits. The loss has been partly offset by progress elsewhere. Pre-tax profits tumbled 27.8 per cent to £2.33 million in the year to December 31, as turnover fell 12.7 per cent to £15.6 million. Exports hit a record £5 million. There is a 3.6p final dividend making 6p (notional 5.9p).

Provision clips TI Group

PRE-TAX profits at Trade Indemnity Group, the credit management company, eased to £5 million last year, from £5.8 million in 1993, after an additional provision of £7.5 million against a policy written in 1990 for the Investors Compensation Scheme. The company said that no further provisions would be required. Although earnings fell to 2.2p (4.5p), the company is lifting the total dividend to 1p (0.5p), with a final of 0.6p, to be paid on July 1. The shares rose 4p to 70p. Net asset values fell 13.4 per cent to £56.1 million.

Polypipe advances

POLYPIPE, the manufacturer of plastic pipes and fittings, lifted pre-tax profits to £9.31 million from £7.45 million, an increase of 25 per cent, in the half year to December 31. Turnover advanced to £84.74 million from £60.8 million. With earnings improving to 3.98p a share, from 3.2p, the interim dividend is lifted to 0.81p, from 0.71p, to be paid on April 25. During the period, capital expenditure held steady at £7.67 million, compared with £7.69 million.

French buy for T&N

T&N, the auto components group due to report financial results for 1994 today, is to buy France's Sintertech, a subsidiary of Pechiney and Usinor Sadril, for Fr250 million. The business is one of Europe's largest makers of powder metal components. Approval from the French authorities is expected within two months. Separately, T&N said it would file a new application to the German cartel office in its bid to buy Kolbenschmidt, the pistons maker.

ICL expects good year

ICL, the British-based computer business controlled by Fujitsu of Japan, expects an accelerating recovery in both sales and profits during 1995. The company, which employs 23,000 people, made £28 million before tax on 1994 sales of £2.66 billion, now appears to be hoping its long-delayed flotation could be achieved in 1997. Peter Bonfield, chairman and chief executive, left, said: "1995 should be a much better year for the financial fortunes of ICL."



Exports boom forecast for UK

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

OVERSEAS demand for British products will remain strong enough to keep growth buoyant this year despite the impact of rising interest rates and taxes at home, says Oxford Economic Forecasting.

Exports are expected to be the main engine of growth, which should total 3.8 per cent in 1995, very similar to the growth rate seen in 1994 and higher than the Treasury's own forecast of 3.25 per cent.

Manufacturing production, which is expected to benefit particularly from overseas demand, is forecast to rise 5.2 per cent in 1995 compared with services growth of 2.6 per cent. Services depend more on domestic activity.

OEFC expects exports to rise more than 10 per cent this year with investment rising 7 per cent. In contrast, consumer spending growth "is likely to be solid rather than stunning" at just above 2 per cent.

Output is expected to be particularly strong among capital goods manufacturers in the mechanical and electrical engineering sectors and in

transport equipment. Other star performers are likely to include the chemicals and metals industries.

However, higher interest rates — and the fear of more rises to come — will mean that housing market activity remains depressed and the construction industry will be hampered by cuts in public spending after last year's Budget. Margins will remain squeezed in the services sector.

But manufacturers will be able to rebuild margins. OEF said there are growing signs that inflation has reached a turning point. Underlying inflation it said, is likely to continue to edge up, reaching 3.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year and 3.5 per cent in the second half of 1996.

With mortgage rates rising, headline inflation is set to breach the 4 per cent upper limit of the Government's target range in the second half of this year.

The group expects interest rates to rise further from the current 6.75 per cent to reach 7.75 per cent in the autumn.

De Beers expects brighter market

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

DE BEERS, the international diamond group, estimates the worldwide retail diamond market rose by 4 per cent to \$45 billion in 1994 and believes retail sales will grow by a further 2 to 3 per cent in 1995.

De Beers said 1995 could be a good year for consumer sales, that economic indicators were strong, and that its marketing spending would be raised by \$10 million to \$185 million to back market trends.

However, Russian sales of rough and polished diamonds outside the terms of an exclusive sales agreement with De Beers continue to be of concern.

Gary Ralfe, a main board director, said

that De Beers would not disagree with estimates that sales of Russian rough and polished diamonds last year exceeded \$2 billion during a period when Russian production was only \$1.2 billion.

Of the \$2 billion estimate, more than half of Russian diamond sales would have been in breach of the sales agreement with De Beers' marketing division, the CSO.

De Beers said that it would not be constructive to sue. However, De Beers is "not happy with a situation which makes a mockery of CSO arrangements". Talks between the two continue. Bypassing the

CSO, and selling rough and polished stones into Antwerp and New York has, De Beers said, undermined confidence in the diamond market.

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, the chairman of De Beers, yesterday announced 1994 net attributable earnings of \$355 million for the year to December 31, compared with \$395 million reported for 1993. At the equity accounted level, De Beers reports profits of \$828 million (\$873 million).

The total dividend is maintained in dollar terms at 84.4 cents a share. Dividend payment is due on May 23.

RTZ in partnership pact

RTZ, which reports 1994 year-end results today, has established a partnership agreement with Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold, the first step of which includes a stock market purchase of 21.5 million shares for \$450 million, equivalent to a 10.4 per cent stake (Colin Campbell writes).

RTZ America has an option to acquire a further 3.5 million

shares, also at market price, for \$75 million.

Freeport-McMoran's principal asset is a 86 per cent stake in the Grasberg copper and gold mine in Irian Jaya, which has proclaimed independence from Indonesia.

The association will also lead to the purchase by RTZ of a 25 per cent stake in a Spanish smelter.

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حسبنا الله ونحسبنا له

□ A shocking intervention □ Regulators cannot be beaten □ Arise, Glaxo Wellcome

Man with beard casts thunderbolt

□ **STEPHEN** Littlechild has caused an awful lot of people an awful lot of grief, but few more so than the respective boards of Northern Electric, Trafalgar House and the National Grid.

While Northern had to screw up its courage all day before telling its shareholders, reluctantly and shamefacedly, that they should accept the £11 offer in cash from Trafalgar, the latter was squirming in the spotlight unwilling to say if, or if not, its offer would eventually go ahead.

The answer would appear to be, on balance, probably. Such a heavily hedged conclusion is unavoidable given the uncertainties Professor Littlechild has unleashed, a state of affairs both farcical and deplorable. It leaves Northern shareholders with an impossible dilemma.

The Trafalgar offer was heading towards success well before Littlechild's intrusion. It is now clear, with Northern shares worth £2 less than the £11 offer, that its shareholders would be best advised to take the money and run. They must do so by Friday, or be left with Trafalgar's rather less attractive cash and convertible preference shares package if the offer succeeds. But Trafalgar's offer could never have gone unconditional on Friday, the closing date, because of the continuation of the govern-

ment's "golden share" until end-March and the various regulatory agreements that must still be reached.

The conditions attached to the bid are sufficiently wide-ranging that Trafalgar can probably walk away in due course if it feels so inclined, pointing to Littlechild's action as justification. Yesterday's hedging and prevarication from the Trafalgar camp suggests this is, at the least, at the back of its mind, which would leave Northern shareholders with nothing.

The confusion deepens because it is obviously not clear what new regulatory regime Littlechild will eventually decide on. Trafalgar therefore genuinely does not know what Northern is worth to it at present. Likewise Northern is unable to say, hand on heart, that its £5 a share package of special loyalty incentives is affordable, given the parallel uncertainty over the National Grid float, the proceeds of which would have provided half that package.

So Trafalgar does not know whether it wants Northern, and Northern cannot honestly say it

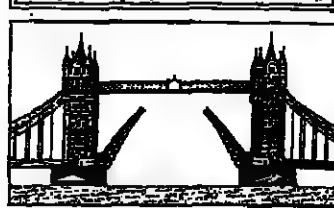
is worth more than the money on offer. Meanwhile, in another part of the corporate finance jungle, advisors to the National Grid cannot say whether the float will now go ahead. Aside from the general uncertainty that has been unleashed, it is now impossible to decide whether an electricity industry groaning under a new, tough regulatory regime can afford to give the Grid away until that regime is known.

Thanks, Professor. And further thanks from a million new shareholders in National Power and PowerGen, whose immediate profits evaporated overnight.

No more free lunch from the regulator

□ A FEW years ago, Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, bullied privatised water companies to raise prices by marginally less than they were allowed. Crucial costs were lower than assumed when price limits were set. Some water company bosses immediately heralded the end of their regu-

PENNINGTON



latory world. Mr Byatt had yielded to short-termism. Order had given way to chaos. In principle, they were right. In practice, it made no difference, since they had not counted on these windfall gains.

Before last summer's reviews of regional electricity and water price limits, there was much waiting and gnashing of teeth. The figures that Stephen Littlechild and Mr Byatt were mulling would bring ruin. After the regulators duly persisted, two water companies appealed to the monopolies commission. But that was not the general reaction. There were formal statements that the companies could just about live with these challenging targets, soon fol-

lowed by a wave of stock market euphoria. Electricity companies, in particular, allowed analysts to project dividend rises far higher than the regulator imagined. Prices were certain five years ahead: life was going to be good.

Perhaps this was just good bargaining. Perhaps some companies fooled their regulators. If so, they should perhaps have realised that a regulator who has been made to look as much of a fool as Professor Littlechild is liable to stretch the rules against the companies. They should have remembered that, while price limits had been fixed, a regulator can usually change the rules.

Competition for custom may not have spread as fast as Professor Littlechild hoped. Competition between companies on the stock market is fierce. As Northern's stunning defence strategy showed, companies that used to see themselves as responsible citizens must now pull out all the stops to meet the demands of institutional shareholders. They have no choice. Regulators must look after consumers.

In the unpleasant times after the demise of golden shares,

shareholders must assume that if their company seems to have a wonderful deal from its regulator, it will not last.

Britain's bouncing infant giant

□ A FALLING stock market cannot have helped Wellcome. But its fate was effectively sealed at the start when the Wellcome Trust decided to commit itself to Glaxo's takeover bid. By doing so, it ruled unilaterally that one of Britain's biggest growth companies would cease to exist. The trust did leave the way clear for counterbidders but battle prospects cannot have looked encouraging for potential white knights when one of the world's largest drugs companies already had its sword aloft and its foot on Wellcome's chest.

Many potential suitors walked away for one reason or another. Zeneca mooted the tactic of committing the trust irrevocably to a higher offer, which would have made such an ambitious move worthwhile. The trust, advised with fail-safe legal

propriety as before, reckoned that it would breach trust law to rule out a higher return offer from Glaxo. No bid was promised even if the trust promised acceptance, making it too hypothetical to bother a judge.

A smaller rival is always at a disadvantage in bid auctions. But Zeneca's quandary again questions the wisdom of the trust's initial stance. This may have deprived outside shareholders of a higher offer. Memo to investors: don't trust a charitable trust any more than any other controlling shareholder. There is nothing like a good cause to justify behaviour open to question in ordinary mortals.

As Wellcome's John Robb noted, however, that is water under the bridge. However unfair to Wellcome, the thinking put forward by Glaxo's Sir Richard Sykes always looked a powerful business proposition. It will create a wholly British company that is the world's largest drugs manufacturer and is set to save vast overlapping costs. If the merger is well managed, Glaxo Wellcome will have the strength to adjust to harsher price regimes by turning over new drugs faster. It will also be in pole position for the likely further consolidation of this global industry. The child should not be tarnished by the circumstances of its birth.

New Fisons chief 'looked at' sale of drugs businesses

By SARAH BAGNALL

STUART WALLIS, the new chief executive at Fisons, said he would not ignore a takeover offer for the group's core drugs division.

"We would be very naive to rule out an offer and at one point did have a good look at whether to clean the entire company out. That is, contact people and offer them all the parts of the business. But we believe that we can add considerable value to Fisons," he said.

As part of this process, Mr Wallis, who joined the company last September, plans to plug the gap in its drug pipeline through either acquisitions, product swaps or licensing in products or a combination of these options.

Furthermore, he added that talks were underway to sell the laboratory supplies business, which, after last week's £202 million sale of the scientific instruments division, will leave the group focused on pharmaceuticals.

"We could stay in laboratory supplies but it would require a great deal of money. We could not do that and stay in

pharmaceuticals as well," he said.

In a bid to revive the group's fortunes, Mr Wallis yesterday unveiled a £220.6 million restructuring programme. This, together with a goodwill write-off of £278.6 million on the sale of the scientific instruments division, pushed the group into a loss of £482.7 million in the year to December 31. This compares with a loss of £700,000 last time.

Operating profits, before exceptional items, increased 17 per cent to £75.5 million on sales of £1.29 billion, down from £1.32 billion in the comparable period.

The pharmaceutical division lifted operating profits 30 per cent to £64.3 million on sales up 7 per cent at £475.5 million but both advances were due to the cessation of trade loading. Sales of Inal, the anti-asthma drug, fell 4 per cent while sales of the follow up drug Tilade rose 23 per cent.

The scientific instruments division lost £11.7 million on sales of £260.4 million while laboratory supplies saw prof-

its drop from £27.2 million to £20.8 million.

The bulk of the £220.6 million restructuring charge relates to the pharmaceutical division and includes job losses outside the UK. A £136.7 million sum is for rationalising manufacturing and distribution, involving asset write-downs due to lower and more realistic sales projections for Tilade and Inal.

A further £19.3 million is for reorganising the sales and marketing operations, including site closures and job losses outside the UK. Overall the group expects to axe a couple of hundred overseas jobs. The balance of the exceptional charge is for changes in accounting policies and reorganising the laboratory supplies business.

The group ended the year with net borrowings of £207.9 million and gearing of 104 per cent, which will be eradicated by the scientific instruments sale proceeds. The final dividend, payable July 3, rises from 1p to 2.6p, making an unchanged total for the year of 4.5p. The shares fell 3p to 147p.



DAN WAGNER, left, chief executive of MAID, the on-line information provider floated last March, and Michael Mander, chairman, are upbeat on prospects after reporting a 113 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £129 million in the year to December 31. Turnover advanced 55 per cent to £5.89 million. Mr Mander expects new client wins and usage to accelerate with the Profound launch in the US. There is no dividend.

Rentokil on the acquisition trail

By MARTIN WALLER

RENTOKIL, the environmental services group, has the firepower for an acquisition of £500 million or more after another healthy year's profits and cash flows.

The company, which has grown through acquisitions, converted borrowings of £16 million at the start of 1994 into cash balances of £67 million by the year-end.

Rentokil has the chance to borrow another couple of hundred million pounds, and Clive Thompson, the chief executive, made it clear yesterday that he had "no policy or principle" against using the company's highly rated paper to top up any potential purchase.

Rentokil, which pushed pre-tax profits up 20 per cent to £177 million, on turnover 22 per cent higher at £735 million in 1994, has yet to identify the next area of expansion. But

Mr Thompson made it clear that one area might be the US security business, acquired in summer 1993 as part of his company's contested bid for Securiguard and found to be a significant underperformer, but now improved.

The company is paying a final dividend of 2.44p, which produces a total improved from 2.85p to 3.45p, well covered by earnings of 11.74p.

Areas that disappointed for Rentokil last year were Continental Europe and Australia, where margins notably trailed the rest of the group, but Mr Thompson was hopeful of improvement this year and a return to much better growth.

The company is aiming to repeat this year its long-running achievement of 20 per cent earnings and profits growth.

Tempos, page 28

THE TIMES Win a £6,000 PEP



Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is a way of investing money out of the reach of the tax man and The Times, in association with TSB Bank, is offering you the chance to win a £6,000 PEP. Answer the questions which appeared on Saturday and which will reappear on Friday, collect four of the six PEP tokens which are appearing each day, and you could win an investment in your choice of three TSB unit trusts:

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How to enter: Collect four of the six tokens which are appearing this week and send them on a postcard with the answer to Saturday's questions plus the tie-breaker by March 15, 1995 to: The Times Win a PEP Competition, Week 3, 16 Whitfriars Street, EC8R 2NG. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date.

* Source: Microplot offer-offer. Income tax relieved. (As at 18.2.95)

THE TIMES
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Bristol & West cuts bad debts

By ROBERT MILLER

BRISTOL & WEST Building Society, Britain's eleventh largest, yesterday announced a 38 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £57.1 million, in spite of a tight squeeze on its margins from tough competition in the mortgage and savings market.

Overall, however, Bristol & West's group operating profits fell by £200,000 to £104.4 million last year. John Burke, the chief executive, said that there was a one-off £7.4 million restructuring cost, after the sale of the Bristol & West Property Services estate agency chain. He added that the society remained committed to Hampton's estate agency network, although 25 branches had been closed in 1994. The new Hampton's Financial Services arm will be extended throughout the estate agents outlets during this year. Bad-

debt provisions fell to £39.9 million from £63.3 million, while the society's all-important cost income ratio fell from 45.1 to 43.9 per cent.

Mr Burke said that Bristol & West had also made moves to standardise its variable mortgage rate in line with most major competitors and given customers in obsolete and closed accounts a better deal. This had cost the society about £9 million.

Mr Burke said that prospects for the housing market this year depended very much on the return of consumer confidence. He added: "What we need now is a decent volume of activity rather than a pick-up in house prices. As part of this, I hope very much that the Government will reconsider certain aspects of its proposed cuts in income support for mortgage interest payments."

Pentos offshoot sold

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

BULLOUGH, the diversified engineering and office products group, has bought Pentos Office Furniture from the administrative receiver to Pentos, its parent, for £9.25 million in cash.

The group beat off one other trade buyer to clinch the deal. Gordon Bond, Bullough's chief executive, said it would transform the group into the biggest player in the £650 million office furniture market. Pentos Office Furniture was not in receivership, but KPMG, the receiver, owned the shares of the company.

The proceeds will go to the banks, which were owed £72 million when the Pentos group went into receivership.

The division made operating profits of £1.01 million on sales of £25.2 million in the year to December 31.

The disposal comes after last week's sale of the Dillons bookshop chain to Thorn EM1 for £36 million. Negotiations for the sale of Ryman's are still going on. Stephen James, of KPMG, said he had received six formal offers and 12 strong expressions of interest for the chain.

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Times 8-3

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Electricity companies suffer power failure

THE smell of burnt fingers wafted round the Square Mile after the electricity companies blew a fuse suffering losses of more than £2 at one stage.

Last night investors were counting the cost of their involvement in the RECs and the threat by the industry watchdog to impose tough new controls on electricity prices. This may be good news for the consumer but should have carried a health warning for investors.

Last night Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, was a deeply unpopular man in the City and the Government's standing among investors had also taken a hammering. His threat of a further tightening of price controls from April 1, 1995, in addition to those coming into force this April, had sent the shares of the RECs tumbling.

By the close of business last night both companies had seen their generous premiums during first time trading on Monday cut back. National Power finished in its partly-paid form 10p down at 176p compared with the initial offer price of 170p, while PowerGen was 9p down at 189p as against the 185p offer.

Professor Littlechild's comments also caught the speculators on the hop making the entire sector less attractive to bidders than it was 48 hours earlier. Trafalgar seemed to be guaranteed of winning the battle for control of Northern Electricity with its £1.1 share offer, while a late announcement from Northern confirmed that it had thrown in the towel and urged shareholders to accept the terms of the offer from Trafalgar House.

Northern last night closed 15p down at 89p as more than £170 million was cut from the group's stock market value of almost £1.2 billion.

Another takeover favourite, Yorkshire Electricity, also saw its stock market value crumble by £331 million to £1.2 billion as the share price plunged 180p to 66p.

Losses elsewhere in the sector were widespread. One broker likened it to a bloodbath, with East Midlands, down 15p at 595p, after briefly touching 575p, and South West, collapsing 183p to 629p, after touching 603p. Eastern,



Jeremy Marshall, of De La Rue, where shares tumbled

which immediately rejected the need for a further tightening of price controls, slumped 103p to 595p. There were also losses for London, 122p to 608p, Manweb, 127p to 699p, Midlands, 119p to 622p, North, 135p to 663p, Seaboard, 67p to 362p, South Wales, 136p to 675p, and Southern, 122p to 603p.

The fall-out from the RECs

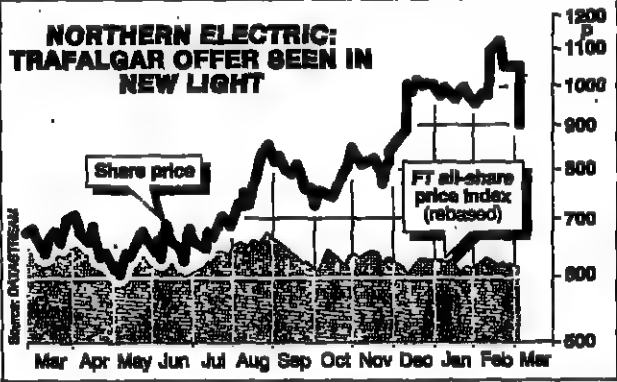
and Yorkshire, 11p to 516p. Northumbrian, which was threatened by a bid on Monday from the French water company Lyonnaise des Eaux, dropped 28p to 842p. The turmoil among the utilities proved all too much for the rest of the equity market with share prices beating a rapid retreat as investors again hurried for cover. The damage

to the FTSE 100 was limited. The FTSE 100 index dropped below the 3,000 mark with a fall of 24.9 to 2,977.0 as a total of 777 million were traded. But a quick glance at the FTSE 250 revealed the extent of the damage caused by the utilities as it finished 66.8 down at 3,527.9.

Glaxo celebrated the decision of Wellcome to accept the terms of its £9 billion bid with

among the top 100 companies was limited. The FT-SE 100 index dropped below the 3,000 mark with a fall of 24.9 to 2,977.0 as a total of 777 million were traded. But a quick glance at the FTSE 250 revealed the extent of the damage caused by the utilities as it finished 66.8 down at 3,527.9.

Glaxo celebrated the decision of Wellcome to accept the terms of its £9 billion bid with



a rise of 19p to 667p, after briefly touching 687p. The terms from Glaxo value Wellcome at £10.25. Wellcome closed 9p lower at £10.27.

Barclays Bank dropped 18p to 588p in spite of trying to whet investors' appetites with a 40 per cent hike in the dividend to 21p. This followed a near doubling of pre-tax profits last year to £1.8 billion on the back of a drop in provisions for bad debts from £1.87 billion to £602 million. But a drop in lending and reduced dealing income from £2.7m left operating profits almost 10 per cent lower at £2.3 billion. Last night Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, was urging clients to switch out of Barclays and into National Westminster, down 5p at 476p.

Rentokil fell 4p to 216p in spite of Clive Thompson, chairman, living up to his promise of achieving earnings growth of 20 per cent per annum. Pre-tax profits were 20.4 per cent ahead at £177 million and earnings up almost 21 per cent at £174p a share. A flat performance in Europe countered encouraging performances in Britain and the US.

De La Rue, the security printer, which last year acquired rival Portals for £682 million, tumbled 147p to 885p on the back of a profits warning. The company said it would achieve only modest earnings growth in the year to March 1996. It blamed a drop in the bank note order book which was below that of last year. De La Rue has now put up for sale all the non-security papermaking operations acquired along with Portals.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts were unsettled by renewed weakness in sterling and falls among German bonds. In the futures pit the June series of the long gilt tumbled £1/4 to £100 1/4 as the number of contracts completed soared to 114,000. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2013 dropped £1/4 to £93 1/4, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1/4 off at £96 1/4.

WALL STREET: Shares on the New York Stock Exchange were forced lower in morning trading, under the continuing pressure of a weak dollar and the fear of higher interest rates. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday had slumped 42.53 points to 3,955.03.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 3955.03 (-42.53) S&P Composite 490.40 (-5.27)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 16952.38 (-85.48)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 8136.66 (-44.75)

Amsterdam: EOX Index 396.74 (-3.38)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 1891.2 (-0.4)

Frankfurt: DAX 2033.34 (-16.98)

Singapore: Straits Times 2086.53 (-28.48)

Brussels: CAC 40 6770.79 (-71.91)

Paris: CAC 40 1748.61 (-26.64)

Zurich: SMI 604.50 (-3.80)

London: FT 30 2277.6 (-9.8) FT 100 2977.0 (-24.9) FTSE Mid 250 3257.6 (-66.8) FTSE Eurotrack 100 1249.30 (-11.98) FT All-Share 1470.41 (-15.05) FT Non Financials 1591.14 (-17.28) FT Gold Mines 115.75 (-1.25) FT Fixed Interest 109.16 (-0.52) FT Govt Secs 90.35 (-0.69) Barclays 588.00 (-18.00) SEAO Volume 777.7m USM (Daxman) 145.74 (-0.37) USM 145.74 (-0.37) USM 145.74 (-0.37) Exchange Index 2.2804 (-0.0417) Bank of England official close (p.m.) ECU 1.2218 (-0.002) RPI 146.0 Jan (5.3%) Jan 1987 to 1994

RECENT ISSUES

Bath Press (10) 12p ... Colleague 12p ... GET Group (125) 12p ... Geared Inc IT (100) 101 ... Inv Tst of IT 84 ... Inv Tst of IT Wts 56 ... Lazard Bifra 1da 30p ... Lazard Bifra 1da 29p ... MCIT's Cap (35) 33 ... MCIT's Inc (35) 33 ... Molex Energy Wts 17p ... Nat Power (p/p) (476) 153 ... Photobiont (150) 13p ... PowerGen (p/p) (512) 189p ... Thurgomton 101p ... Wessex Trust 11 ... Zetefosma (145) 17p ...

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MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: Courtauld 438p (+8p) Adco 285p (+8p) Ranger 386p (+12p) Zaneca 876p (+14p) Glaxo 867p (+18p)

FALLS: Kleinwort Benson 559p (-18p) Schroders 1403p (-17p) SD Warburg 676p (-12p) Seaboard 67p (-12p) Morland 430p (-15p) Redland 425p (-10p) Wolsey 332p (-12p) Waste Mgt Int 296p (-14p) Coymore 140p (-10p) GKN 563p (-12p) Granada 500p (-10p) Rank Org 382p (-10p) Pearson 553p (-9p) Utd Newspapers 502p (-9p) Wellcome 1027p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 81

TEMPUS

A capital problem

IF BARCLAYS manages to produce anything like the level of retained profit this year that it tucked away in 1994 it will find itself rather embarrassed. Chief among the problems facing UK banks has been the sluggish demand for credit. As businesses pile up profits and cash, they show a marked reluctance to borrow to invest in new capacity.

Big companies are returning capital to their shareholders seeing few opportunities to achieve better than pedestrian returns from new investment or acquisitions and Barclays may soon be in the same boat. The bank is earning a handsome 20 per cent plus return on equity but even the bank admits that is unsustainable long-term and net interest margins of 3 per cent will soon erode with competition.

The notion of surplus capital is new to the

banking industry which only five years ago would have happily geared up its lending book on every spare penny. A wiser Barclays is happy with its current capital base opening up the prospect of a share buy-back. However, the bank yesterday said it was in no hurry to return funds to investors and threw cold water on the prospect of a big acquisition.

In an ideal world Barclays would like to raise capital and return it as and when its balance sheet required it. But investors are unlikely to be so flexible and, like bankers, may be reluctant to invest when the company finds it needs funds. Barclays is right to be wary of acquisitions and may be tempted to hang on to its earnings in the hope that strong loan demand will come back but yesterday's fall in operating income gives investors little reason to hold their breath.

De La Rue

THE awesome fall in De La Rue shares, wiping 14 per cent off the company's stock market value, was prompted by a leading statement that was anything but the market over-reaction, if such it was, does at least emphasise the fragility of the share price, and the exaggerated hopes pinned on the Portals deal.

De La Rue was forced to pay more than 30 times' earnings to bring a reluctant Portals to the altar, so some dilution from the sale of peripheral assets, at lower multiples, would seem inevitable.

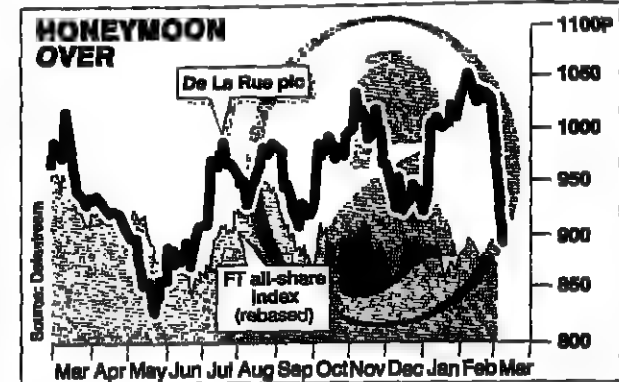
That dilution is unlikely to exceed a penny or so a share off forecast earnings of 56p for the year to the end of March. The bad trading news from De La Rue can be summed up thus: the Ger-

man Garry business is suffering

from increased competition that is hitting margins. At the same time, the core banknote business cannot hope to repeat the record performance of last year.

De La Rue's shares, before yesterday's shock, were selling on more than 18 times' earnings, a good 25 per cent

premium to the market. They are now on a multiple of under 16, which seems a little more reasonable. However, plenty of investors acquired shares at near their current level during the bid. They have now seen their large capital gains disappear in a few seconds, and will not forget that the market is an unforgiving beast.



Rentokil

RENTOKIL is the ultimate perpetual motion machine. An insistence on raising profits and earnings per share annually by 20 per cent for the foreseeable future requires a continued round of small, and sometimes bigger, acquisitions.

Strong cash flow means that funding is not a problem. But as Rentokil achieves dominance in its newest market, the supply of underperforming smaller competitors that can provide the next year's profit boost becomes more limited.

But that 20 per cent target means that only low-performing businesses can be acquired - there is no point in taking over a company where the Rentokil management have no opportunity of adding value. This means the group must occasionally launch into a new area of the service industry, and therein lies the danger - that the management will blunder

into an area they do not understand and suffer accordingly.

Rentokil is at that difficult stage at the moment, probably requiring a leap into the dark. Catering has been considered, but most of the players in Britain are either under new management, or too well run. These are the looming uncertainties, but the shares are still selling on 16 times' earnings for this year, which would seem to put a low value on the group's achievements so far.

TI Group

WHEN engineering shares trade at premiums to the market, suspicious investors tend to think about selling. TI Group, however, is the exception that proves the rule. The company has consistently grown its dividend over the last ten years, and on the most conservative estimates should achieve £170 million of profit in the current year.

TI has two market leaders

in John Crane, the industrial seals business, and Bundy, which makes brake and fuel systems. Both have market shares of about 50 per cent, but TI expects further growth from new products. Margins, which rose a full point to 11.3 per cent, could show further improvement.

TI's problem in the past has been producing cash from its growing business, but last year a squeeze on working capital and lower spending on restructuring allowed the cash to pour in, and the market is expecting TI to be cash positive by the year-end. That leaves TI with the scope for a substantial acquisition, and it will be hard-pressed to find a suitable candidate. But with the existing business turning over nicely and the promise of a growing repair order book at Dowty, TI can justify its premium without a mammoth deal.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

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Utilities drag market lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994/95

Low Company

Rate

UP

DOWN

Vol %

%

BANKS

353

369

369

440

-1

5

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82

370

387

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461

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Utilities drag market

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. The previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

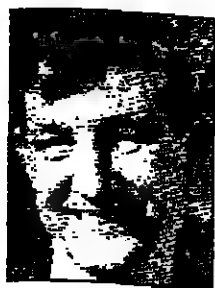
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MUSIC page 38
Canada offers British
Baroque specialist
Trevor Pinnock a chance
to broaden his repertoire

ARTS

THEATRE page 39

Peter Bowles helps to
give a new lease of life
to a Terence Rattigan
study of terminal illness



The best seats in the world, please

Which city offers the world's most exciting music and the most imaginative and compelling cinema? Where is the buzz in dance or in pop? And what is Britain's present standing in the cultural league-table? The *Times* asked six of its critics to choose the city that would offer them the best nights out in their respective fields

CINEMA

Maybe it is my patriotic duty to wait about for *Eight Weddings* and *Four Funerals*. But, hand on my heart, if I could live where the art of cinema flourished best, you would not see me under Britain's grey skies. Even if a wand was waved and our film industry became financially buoyant, there would still be the problem of the British film-maker's blinkered vision.

Our technicians are wonderful. We are good at servicing scripts with the best actors and costumes, and clean, functional images. We are good at dishing up the past. We are bad at penetrating the present, and telling stories, exploring feelings, through pictures rather than words.

A spell in America would be fun, though not as rewarding as it would have been when Hollywood lavished its riches on audiences in the 1920s and 1930s. Then, each week held the promise of a new film from Garbo or Buster Keaton, a *Top Hat*, or a visual poem like *Sunrise*. At the end of the century, American movies still enjoy the energy and talent that let them conquer the world so easily; what they have lost, overall, is their intelligence.

Mainland Europe, then? France, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Poland, Hungary, former Czechoslovakia: all have had their glory days. But stale ideas and the economic confusion following communism's collapse have led to an artistic drought, relieved occasionally by Kieślowski, Giannini Amelio, and the odd French surprise.

No, I must collect my bags and travel further afield. I need lessons in Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese. For it has been obvious for the last ten years that the Far East — China, Hong Kong and Taiwan especially — know how to make cinema dynamic, beautiful, deeply relevant to our times. They also produce ugly rubbish: what countries with big, eager audiences do not?

The steady progress made by Chinese-language films on the international scene cannot be ascribed just to fashion and the lure of the exotic. Films like Chen Kaige's *Farewell My Concubine*, Tian Zhuangzhuang's *The Blue Kite* and the wondrous creations of Zhang Yimou pierce the heart and dazzle the eye. Younger directors like Wong Kar-wai and Tsai Ming-Liang point to a cinema of the future: lithe, quirky, cine-literate, alert to the moods of urban youth.

But will the future exist? To ensure greater control over film content, last year China instituted stringent rules for the co-productions that make up most of its quality product. Major directors have been blacklisted, productions disrupted. Beyond 1997, Hong Kong faces the unknown. And Hollywood continues to spread everywhere, ousting local material: good for money men, bad for the art form. Perhaps I shouldn't unpack.

GEOFF BROWN



DANCE

Twenty years ago it was easy to decide where dance utopia was — New York. Balanchine was still alive and making new work, so was Martha Graham, most notably for Rudolf Nureyev. Paul Taylor was at a creative peak, as was Merce Cunningham. Antony Tudor made *The Leaves Are Falling* in 1975; the next year Twyla Tharp split open the ballet world with *Push Comes to Shove* for Mikhail Baryshnikov. A new generation of choreographers, people such as Trisha Brown and Lucinda Childs, were redefining the boundaries of dance.

Today such a single creative vortex is nowhere to be found. You would have to be a globe-trotter if you wanted to be where all the best in dance was happening.

If you want great performances, go to Paris where the Paris Opéra Ballet fields an astounding array of talent — dancers such as Charles Jude, Elisabeth Platel and Isabelle Guerin — unsurpassed anywhere in the world. If you want size, a trip to Moscow is in order: the Bolshoi may be tatty around the edges in the new capitalist Russia but it can still put on a big show.

If you want new choreography you will be busy on both sides of the Atlantic. In America, Mark Morris is the hottest thing in dance; in France

World-beaters (clockwise from top left) Leslie Cheung in Chen Kaige's *Farewell My Concubine*, showing the emerging power of Chinese cinema; Juliet Stevenson and Michael Byrne in the West End production of *Death and the Maiden*; Peter Keller singing Mime in *Siegfried* during last year's acclaimed Paris cycle of Wagner's *Ring*; and the Mark Morris Company, the leading lights of the contemporary-dance scene

Angelina Jolie is moving up fast. The American William Forsythe is trendy, too, but he is based in Frankfurt.

Festivals are doing their bit for the dissemination of dance. Head for San Francisco in May where the San Francisco Ballet has invited a dozen international companies to make new work as part of a gigantic festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. And what about Copenhagen? Next year the Royal Danish Ballet is commissioning five full-length ballets to celebrate the Danish capital's status as European City of Culture.

But if an around-the-world ticket is beyond your means, then stay put in London, as long as your budget extends to the Edinburgh Festival. Sooner or later most of the exciting developments in dance do find their way to our door — Morris, Prejocaj and Forsythe are all regular visitors. And while it may not be in the vanguard of choreographic invention, Covent Garden can hold its own as one of the greatest ballet companies the 20th century has produced.

DEBRA CRAINE

OPERA

Pausing briefly to muse on the manifold attractions of Sydney — its amazing opera house, the solidly accomplished repertoire company that works in it, all that water and the second-best zoo in the world — I suppose it will have to be Paris. There are five theatres. The Palais Garnier is one of the world's great opera houses: simply to enter its portals is pleasure enough before you have even heard a note, and notes — both vocal and instrumental — sound wonderful in its surprisingly intimate auditorium.

I love the Opéra Comique even more: genuinely intimate, repository of a grand tradition heedlessly snuffed out in the 1950s but one currently showing signs of revival. A *Thais* there ten years ago remains one of my warmest operatic memories, and *Mireille* is nosing over the horizon even as I write... What London lacks more than anything is a theatre the size of the Opéra Comique.

Then there is the dear old dusty Châtelet, so dowdy and welcoming, the art-deco



Champs-Élysées with its own traditions from Diaghilev onwards — and, um, the Bastille Opéra. Mitterrand's gleaming white elephant is a convenient venue for popular spectacles while the serious work is done elsewhere (don't quote me).

And there is always the artfully distressed Bouffes du Nord for those who can take Peter Brook's pointless deconstructions, not to mention countless fringe theatres: a shoestring matinee of Christine's *Phi-Phi*, that masterpiece of quadruple entendre, in the Rue Moufflard is another glowing memory.

More important, French governments, whatever their hue, recognise the importance of High Art Opera is properly funded. The Parisian scene is further spiced by Jacques Chirac's love of the lyric theatre and/or political ambition: as mayor of the capital he pours money into the Châtelet

as rival to Mitterrand's Bastille, and audiences benefit from such successes as last autumn's exceedingly impressive *Ring* cycle and the stunning *King Arthur*.

And there are audiences in Paris: those theatres are packed out by a heterogeneous, informed and appreciative public, while over here the Stevenson report ponders the static or shrinking audience for opera in London. There is a blindingly simple answer, ignored by Stevenson presumably for ideological reasons: seat prices in Paris are roughly half those in London.

If a future British Government changes all this (some hope), then I could nip back on Eurostar to test the water — the same Eurostar that now makes going to the opera in Paris as easy (and almost as cheap) for a Londoner as going to the opera in Leeds.

RODNEY MILNES

CLASSICAL MUSIC

A great orchestra does not guarantee that a city has a great concert life: but a great concert life is difficult to sustain without a great orchestra. So that immediately puts Italy and France out of bounds for me, and brings into consideration some otherwise quite extraordinarily boring cities. The dread words "Cleveland, Ohio" spring to mind.

But a great orchestra requires a great hall to burnish its brass and encourage its strings, and loads of cash to pay for the great soloists and conductors whose presence would inspire its musicians and audiences alike. So farewell, London. Don't get me wrong: I reckon that I have attended 2,000 London con-

certs over the past 20 years or so, and more than half of them have brought me great pleasure. That's not a bad strike-rate. But for fantasy-league concert-going you need a wonderful hall.

You also require a charismatic figure who is committed to that city for more than 15 minutes a year, who can generate electrifying performances and win over audiences for music that is new or unfamiliar. That rules out most of the cities left in contention — even Vienna, which has a magnificent orchestra and hall, but nobody in charge to shake the place out of its complacent ultra-conservatism.

Nevertheless, there is Rattle in Birmingham, Masur in New York, Abbado in Berlin, Dohnanyi in Cleveland, Blomstedt in San Francisco, Temirkanov and Jansons in St Petersburg — but does the St Petersburg Philharmonic actually play in St Petersburg any more? It seems to be permanently touring the hard-currency countries.

Finally, you need a supporting musical life — of first-class recitals every night, thrusting young new-music groups, composers and conservatoires, and a powerful and musically committed broadcasting organisation. On all those matters, London tops the world; but we have already ruled London out.

Where else can you find all that? New York, perhaps; but Avery Fisher Hall (where the

New York Phil plays for most of the time) is worse than the Barbican for sound, and New York has no BBC.

No, the city of a music-lover's dreams must be Berlin. With Claudio Abbado revitalising the repertoire and the adventurous spirit of the Philharmonic, with two or three other excellent orchestras in the city, with its proud operatic heritage, and with the rich chamber and contemporary musical life of the reunited metropolis, Berlin cannot fail to underline its position as the musical capital of the world. Besides, the Berliners are much friendlier than the Viennese.

RICHARD MORRISON



Claudio Abbado: the revitalising force behind the emergence of Berlin as the musical capital of the world



Country-rock star Joe Ely: in a long Texan tradition

THEATRE

The point was clinched for me two years ago, when I saw Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden* first in London, then in New York. Here, it had a tacky set and, thanks largely to Juliet Stevenson's performance as a vengeful torture victim, an unnerving power. There, Mike Nichols set the play in what looked like a Disney castle and, with the help of Glenn Close, Richard Dreyfuss and Gene Hackman, turned it into a soap about a maladjusted lady and her troubled marriage. British parsimony had bought truth, American profligacy only lies.

I have lived and practised my craft in New York, and had chances to do so again, but I opted for London. For the drama freak, there are alternatives to either city. Not Paris, which has long been in decline; not anywhere in Germany, where theatre-going is a grim, masochistic matter; but maybe Dublin, which has come to life in the 1990s, or Chicago, though the energy of the 1980s has abated. I have heard good things about Seattle and seen fine things in Glasgow, but both places would leave me enviously reading my ex-colleagues' account of what was happening in the smoke.

London's claim to be the centre of the English-speaking theatre cannot be challenged. Half the Broadway playhouses are usually dark. Off-Broadway seldom excites. There are no New York counterparts of the National and RSC. Classic work, including Shakespeare, is all but extinct. Good actors decamp for Tinseltown.

When I was a New York critic I could see one, two plays a week and be well on top of the job. Here, I see about 200 a year and still feel I miss a lot. Moreover, New Yorkers cannot get to Louisville or Houston as easily as we can to Stratford, Leeds or even Edinburgh, and they anyway find less when they arrive.

Let me not succumb to insular triumphalism. London sees too few foreign companies, and is producing too few interesting new dramatists of its own. But the decider is, quite simply, our actors. Think Michael Bryant, Claire Higgins, Michael Gambon, Simon Russell-Beale, Janet Suzman, Robert Stephens, Anthony Sher, Ian McKellen, Jane Lapotaire, Sara Kestelman, Alec McCowen... but need I say more?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

POP

I am packing my Stetson and heading for Texas. The Lone Star State has produced few bona fide rock 'n' roll stars. Buddy Holly and the Crickets from Lubbock were the first. ZZ Top from Houston the biggest. But Texas has a long and distinctive live music tradition: the legacy of blues originators such as Lightnin' Hopkins and Freddie King, country-rock veterans including Joe Ely and Jimmie Dale Gilmore and latterday blues-rock stars such as Johnny Winter and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

It remains a hotbed of grassroots activity that has not been distorted through the fish-eye lens of the media or corrupted by the incessant wheeling and dealing that goes on in the big popular-music centres on the east and west coasts.

For a lover of electric blues, Tex-Mex and American roots music in general, arriving in the state capital of Austin is like reaching Nirvana. It is a university town which supports a flourishing artistic and bohemian community, and boasts a downtown area that is the musical equivalent of a red-light district. On virtually any night of the year you can walk down 6th Street and pass bar after bar, maybe a dozen or more, all featuring superb roots, R&B and rock'n'roll bands.

Then every March the city hosts the South By Southwest Music And Media Conference, a massive industry jamboree which in 1994 played host to about 500 primarily roots-rock acts over a five-night stretch.

In the world league of rock 'n' roll capitals, I would rank London third behind New York and Los Angeles. It has every kind of venue — from the prestigious 250-capacity Borderline, to the massive 72,000-capacity Wembley Stadium — and there has been no major rock act since Elvis Presley who has not appeared here frequently throughout their career. Britain is the gateway through which popular music travels from Europe to the rest of the world and vice versa.

But more than that, Britain and Ireland together still constitute an astonishingly vibrant centre of creativity. Since last year, bold, original new acts have been surfacing virtually every week, and there is a sense of vitality and adventure in the air which makes the current British scene as exciting as that of any period since the 1960s.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Upper lips stiff and wooden

THEATRE: Rattigan's lament for English reserve may be dated, but its worth shines through despite this shallow revival, says **Benedict Nightingale**

Terence Rattigan based this touching play on his observation of Rex Harrison as Kay Kendall succumbing to leukaemia. Had so self-absorbed a husband started behaving in a considerate, outgoing way, Kendall would have guessed that her sickness was more serious than anybody admitted, so the rows continued as normal. After one ferocious bust-up, Harrison actually threw the terminally ill woman's clothes out of her hotel suite, then locked the door on her.

"You wouldn't tell me I'm not dying if I were, would you?" she asked as she lay in hospital. "Of course not, you silly little fool. See you tomorrow," replied Harrison. That was their last conversation. She died a few hours later.

In his biography of Harrison, Alexander Walker adds a suggestive gloss to the tale. He has evidence that Kendall knew how ill she was, but wanted Harrison neither to know nor to know she knew. Could there be a more English situation, in or out of *Brief Encounter*?

Certainly that seems to have been

Rattigan's view when he penned his tale of the grumpy critic, Sebastian, and his wise, saintly wife, Lydia, each conspiring in the other's ignorance.

Back in 1973 not even Donald Sinden and Joan Greenwood were able to make a critical and commercial success of the first production of *In Praise of Love*, partly because

Rattigan's reputation was itself still on the sick-list, partly because the play proper came

with an idiot curtain-raiser, a burlesque of Tosca called *Before Dawn*. Thankfully, that has been dropped here.

What remains is a piece that seems simultaneously poignant and dated, worth reviving in itself but, thanks to Richard Olivier's less-than-tense production, dubiously worth its slot on Shaftesbury Avenue.

The main reason the play dates is Sebastian's political credo. He spends a lot of time spouting a sort of champagne Marxism and mocking his son, an aspiring playwright who is an active member of what at the time was a trendy subversive organisation, the Young Liberals. This produces little heat, less light,



An awkward cast for the "bard of embarrassed repression and well-meant lies": (from left) Ray Lonnen, Lisa Harrow, Peter Bowles and Christien Anholt. Drawing by Bill Hewison

nothing but the odd distracting flicker. But that need not greatly affect our appreciation of what really matters in the play: the love the husband has for his wife, and she for him, all appearances to the contrary.

Peter Bowles's literary critic ex-

udes a selfishness so blithely absolute you feel he really ought to be wearing a Garrick Club nappy. His performance is witty and intelligent, but lacking in the blackness of feeling the situation finally demands.

Similarly, Lisa Harrow's Lydia

has a pluck and a warmth that hides little but more pluck and warmth. They are not helped by making their separate confessions to a confidant who, as played by Ray Lonnen, treats matters deeply pathetic and hideously ironic with all the feeling of a table loaded with

crochery. It is a challenge, having continually to deliver lines like "How do you know?" and "What then?" but emotional mahogany is not the answer.

Still, the play makes its point. Maybe the *vice anglis* is not pederasty but "our refusal to admit

to our emotions". So Sebastian says, and so Rattigan thought and repeated in piece after piece. He was the bard of embarrassed repression and well-meant lies, and, whatever its fate here, *In Praise of Love* was one of his most articulate laments.



Roderick Williams is a thoroughly dangerous Tarquin while Klara Uleman unleashes her glowing mezzo to thrill as Lucretia

OPERA: Young singers reach new heights in a fine performance

Troubled by student power

THERE IS a startling coup de théâtre at the very end of Stephen Medcalf's admirably austere and concentrated production of *Lucretia* for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama students. During the orchestral postlude the platform at the centre of Francis O'Connor's classically simple decor splits and floats off into the wings, leaving only a white cross set on a red stage-cloth with the Male and Female Chorus perched on it.

Like all good symbols, it can mean anything you choose it to mean — the Church central and dominant, or the Church isolated and marginalised. The furtive stance of the Chorus tended to suggest the latter, but perhaps they were just frightened of falling off. Either way, Medcalf was emphasising the absolute centrality of the Christian commentators on the pagan action and the extent of their equivocal collusion in it. *Lucretia* — a sort of heterosexual *Billy Budd* — grows more troubling every time you hear it.

This was a very fine performance, conducted by Clive Timms with both dramatic urgency and proper attention to the purely instrumental

The Rape of Lucretia Guildhall School

beauties of the score. The standard of playing was impressive. Medcalf provoked a certain degree of corresponding audience collusion by making the central act unsettlingly erotic — within the bounds of decency. I hasten to add — which increased the troublesome factor. Audiences should, perhaps, be more repelled by the rape than they were invited to be.

Should one be cross about the number of students from abroad at our conservatoires, mindful of so much native talent unsupported by cash-strapped authorities? Or flattered to be so favoured a training ground for young European musicians? Either way, the contributions in the first of two alternating casts of the Norwegian Terje Andersen (Male Chorus) and Rotterdam-born Klara Uleman (Lucretia) were outstanding.

Andersen's beautiful and free tenor sound was one thing, and his faultlessly clear English diction quite another — in both respects he cast none too flattering a light on Lesley

Cook's disappointingly tight-toned, near-consonant-free Female Chorus. Uleman's Lucretia started quietly; admittedly, the role is by no means showy in the first act, but in the second she unleashed her firm, glowing mezzo to thrilling effect. Her diction, too, was impeccable. Roderick Williams was a thoroughly dangerous Tarquin — "panther-egle" indeed — but one who sang the role with beguiling musicianship, a true vocal sculptor in the way he shaped Britten's phrases.

This was true of the cast as a whole — of Fiona McAndrew's sweetly twittering Lucia, Lydia Marchione's grave Bianca, Michael Lewis's shifty Junius and Julian Saipet's almost over-smug Collatinus. Thanks to the ministrations of an experienced music staff, you felt these young artists were singing just that bit better than even they themselves thought they could, which is what can make student performances exciting to even the most blasé opera buff.

There are repeats today and Friday — warmly recommended.

RODNEY MILNES

ROCK



Faith No More: two terrific bands for the price of one

Killing joker

SINGER Mike Patton begins this concert apparently in the grip of demons; he ends it singing the "Bea Gees" / *Starred A Joke*. Faith No More specialise in such slightly bewildering contrasts.

Despite album sales running into the millions, their current tour takes them to modestly sized venues. Their set moves between brutalised thrashes and biting country rock. And, although the band's founding members — Billy Gould (bass), Mike Bordin (drums) and Roddy Bottum (keyboards) — have been together since 1982, they have been through three guitarists in the past year.

The confusion makes for an unsettling night. Patton looks ordinary enough in his grey T-shirt and jeans, but, for the first few numbers, he is like a caged animal, sometimes crouched on all fours or bent double, sometimes with his back to the audience.

He roars out the lyrics in a manic rage, using an impressive voice to deliver demented shrieks and agonised cries. The rest of the band drives home his anguish with thundering riffs, taken at a frantic pace, and delivered with impeccable skill.

Suddenly, though, the mood lightens, as the band slips into the jazz-tinged *Evidence*, which boasts a guitar solo that

Faith No More
UEA, Norwich

might have been borrowed from George Benson. But then it's back to the asylum, before relief comes again in the form of a very respectful cover of the Commodores' *Easy*, a hit for Faith No More in 1993.

It is almost as if there are two different groups on stage; one determined to keep alive the raucous mixture of metal and rap; the other desperate to try out new styles.

The tensions become most apparent with *Take This Bottle*, one of the songs on their forthcoming album *King For A Day... Fool For A Lifetime*. This country lament, with its elegant piano accompaniment, is delivered dead straight, but Patton, who stands stock-still for these gentler numbers, leads the band in several reprises of the chorus. Each repeat, however, comes over as a veiled threat, as if he knows this is not what the dishevelled fans want to hear — one more time, with real sarcasm.

You begin to wonder whether even Patton likes the song. It's as if, for Faith No More, their show is an argument conducted by other means.

JOHN STREET

WIN A TRIP TO BOSTON

THE Mark Morris Dance Group, sensation of the past three Edinburgh Festivals, is about to begin its first national tour of Britain. In June, though, Morris will be unveiling his latest work — and the winner of our competition will be in Boston to see it.

The winning Boston Club member, and a friend, will fly on American Airlines from Heathrow on the morning of Friday, June 9, and spend two nights at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The prize is on June 10, and the return flight leaves Boston on Sunday evening, arriving back at Heathrow on the Monday morning.

To enter the competition, answer the three questions below and send the answers, together with your name, address, daytime telephone number and Theatre Club membership number, to: The Theatre Club, Boston House, 31-33, Euston Street, London NW1 2ET. The winner will be the first correct entry drawn after the closing date, March 20.

The questions are:
1. On which ballet is Mark Morris's ballet *The Hard Nut* based?
2. *The Nutcracker* is based on:
a) Swan Lake
b) Which American television series is based on *The Nutcracker*?
c) *Something's Rotten in Denmark*
3. AA.ISS will be the second daily scheduled flight to Boston from Heathrow by which US airline?

THE THEATRE CLUB

CLUB members can also enjoy discounts on tickets for performances by the Mark Morris company at: YORKING New Victoria Theatre March 10-12, 14-17 off tickets normally £15-£17.50. Tel: 01937 761444. CAMBERBURY Marlborough Theatre March 22-23 Two tickets for one price of one (normally £15.50) Tel: 01227 787787. ALDERBURGH Swan Theatre March 24-25, 27-29 off tickets normally £10-£12.50. Tel: 01223 45343. NEWCASTLE Theatre Royal March 28-29 Two tickets for the price of one (normally £16.50) Tel: 0191 232 2661. BLACKPOOL Grand Theatre March 31-April 1. Best stalls seats for £9 (normally £11-£12.50) Tel: 01253 28372.

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre April 4-5 £2 off tickets (normally £14-£16) Tel: 0121 236 4455.

TO join the Theatre Club, please ring 01206 791737. For general inquiries, call 0171 367 9673.

DANCE: Northern world premiere

Too rich a feast

The Brontës Grand Theatre, Leeds

As the Brontës, her new dance-drama for NBT, is packed with enough stories to fill half a dozen evenings at the Grand Theatre, leaving her so weighed down with narrative that there is little time or space to develop, or even differentiate, characters.

And what characters they are. Patrick Brontë, a Classics scholar at Cambridge who became a Yorkshire curate and fathered an extraordinary literary family. Daughters who gave the world some of the greatest romantic novels ever — *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* among them. And a wayward son whose taste for drugs and alcohol ruined a brief and colourful life.

Lynne's mistake (and Christopher Gable's too, since he co-devised it) lies in trying to give all the characters and inci-

dent equal status and emphasis. Each of the three acts is broken into six or seven scenes, each lasting a few minutes. Although the transition from one scene to the next is smooth, the overall effect is bitty. Lynne's determination to detail every aspect of life at Haworth Parsonage forces her into an episodic straightjacket which precludes the development of a thematic structure. The choreography serves the catalogue of events without embodying the essence of the characters' experiences — or generating the requisite sympathy for their individual tragedies.

The story is told through the eyes of Patrick, who opens the ballet having just buried the last of his six children. The rest is a flashback trawl through more than 40 years of his life, beginning with his marriage in 1812. Helpful spoken passages (Derek Jacobi as Patrick, Judi Dench as Charlotte) fill in the more complicated plot developments and, most irritatingly, substitute for movement at the very moments of grief and rage when body language is called for.

Occasionally Lynne's choreography does transcend its own literalism. Scenes in Act I evoke the joy of the shared fantasy life of the Brontë children. A pas de deux in Act II for Cathy and Heathcliff — with Emily orchestrating her fictional moors lovers from the

sidelines — captures a certain wildness of spirit. And Charlotte's Act III love duet finds a measure of passion previously lacking in the ballet.

Dominic Muldowney's commissioned score falls into the same trap as the choreography: too much plodding detail, not enough sweep. Only *Lez Broderick* gets it right, with designs that are spare and effective. A large white frame both encloses the action and opens it out on to the painted misted moors behind.

As Charlotte, Jayne Regan produced the most well-rounded characterisation on opening night, while William Walker was a driven Brantwell and Charlotte Broom an intense Emily. Peter Parker, as Patrick, did what he could with the little he was given.

Monday's gala world premiere in Leeds, in the presence of Prince Edward, was sponsored by BT.

DEBRA CRAINE

CONCERT

Grappling with myth

BBC SO/Davis Festival Hall

He also cleverly uses the intervals between the struggles — when the fighters circle each other looking for an advantage — as opportunities to vary the level of tension. In one of these "dances", the soloist effectively engages with a muted trumpet in the orchestra, and later he

clashes with three offstage trumpets. With the expanded percussion also in full cry (the fights are depicted by, respectively, metal, wood, skin and metal instruments) the soloist has to work hard to gain sovereignty. It was nevertheless a heroic and creditable effort.

In the remaining items, Davis reaffirmed his credentials as an authoritative Elgarian in warm-blooded but discriminating performances of *Faust* and the *Enigma Variations*. The former began in quite restrained fashion, but certainly filled out in good time. The *Variations* were moved along smartly: each character was painted with just enough depth to register; surely preferable to the bloated impressions we sometimes get.

BARRY MILLINGTON

FOU TS'ONG

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Buyers are looking beyond the fine print to the fine detail of renovation and decor, reports Claire Pilton

Designed for living in

The 1980s trend of "dressing to sell" took a nosedive during the recession. But now the ready-to-move-into home is back, with a difference.

"All the frills and flourishes have disappeared. The look is more relaxed, less obvious. Money is being spent on the fabric of the building as opposed to accessories," says Anthony Lassman, of Lassmans, who is selling a refurbished and stylish four-bedroom apartment in Eaton Square, London SW1.

The owner has spent "hundreds of thousands of pounds" on work which included restoring the original cornice in the drawing room, installing a pair of fireplaces in the interconnected drawing and dining rooms, a floodlit and landscaped balcony, a handcrafted kitchen with matt black stone worktops on platinum coloured wood, and proper marble slabs in the bathrooms. The style is classic, right down to the chrome crosshead taps and bevel-edged mirror.

"Nothing is gimmicky," says Elaine Lassman, of Lassman Interiors, who was responsible for the refurbish-

ment and decoration of the walls, floors, and windows. "Today's style is timeless, serene, calm and neutral. Over-decorating is out." This 20-year-old apartment in Eaton Square is fetching a suitably stylish £2 million price tag.

A similar scenario has occurred at No 1, The Little Boltons, London SW10, which was bought for £1.1 million when it was two rundown flats. Now restored as a single seven-bedroom residence, Paul Howe, of developers M. Bardiger Ltd, says they have spent "over £200,000 on the bits and pieces alone". The huge double drawing room is clad in cream and opens onto a west-facing and planted garden, while the dining-room is dressed for dinner at a cheap, chipboard table cleverly disguised with a linen pleated skirt and Nobby napkins featuring the No 1 logo from above the front door. The property is for sale on a 42-year lease through Chestersfields, for £3.25 million.

John Hunter, of Northacre, who made the headlines last year with the most successfully dressed-to-sell £9 million "semi" in Tregunter Road,

London SW10, is now showing two very different flats at Observatory Gardens, W8. One is a traditionally presented four-bedroom, two-reception-room apartment with two terraces which is for sale as seen, excluding fine art and antiques, for £2.25 million; the other, which is ultra minimalist and intentionally shell-like, is on offer for £975,000. Light and spacious, it has three receptions, two bedroom suites and two terraces.

If you're not a developer, but are looking to sell your own home in the spring, what can you do to help give it that fresh, natural Nineties look? "If you have a solid background you can ring the changes with accessories. You'd be amazed how half-a-dozen different cushions, some new lamps and a rug can change the whole look of a place," says interior designer Joanna Wood, who made the country-house look her hall-mark some ten years ago. She believes that there is still a place for that — albeit a deflated and cleaned up version. It is a style she also favours in her own home, "because it suits my Georgian



The drawing room at Ranelagh Grove, London SW1: a property dressed to sell

furniture, it's comfortable, and I don't want to go home and rearrange one orchid every night!"

Mrs Wood bought her three-bedroom house in Ranelagh Grove, London SW1, in 1993, but was aware "it would not be perfect for

ever. Consequently I made sure that all the work I had done — and it was in a terrible state — was guaranteed and certificated. In the 1980s, a purchaser might have asked if there was any local building work scheduled to take place: today people are much fussier

and surveys run into pages." The £625,000 asking price includes carpet and curtains, while the upholstery and soft furnishings are available by separate negotiation. Mrs Wood's house is for sale through Chestersfields on a 73-year lease.

French lesson for buyers

A course on the ups and downs of purchasing a property abroad

We have all heard disaster stories from people who have bought properties in France and found the experience fraught with worry, Mary Wilson writes.

There are excellent books to read on buying property abroad, but a better way may be to talk to people who have bought themselves. Lullie Webb, who bought her own property in France six years ago, started running weekend courses for overseas buyers at her Wiltshire home three years ago. "When we bought our property in the Loire, my husband, Adrian, knew French well and spoke good French. But we forgot that the French inheritance laws are very complicated. So we decided to sell the house to an SCI (Société Civile Immobilière), which is a property holding company in which all the family are shareholders. We can now gradually off-load shares to the children, who will end up owning the house in the most tax-efficient way," Mrs Webb says.

"If we had known what questions to ask before we had bought, we would have saved a lot of money. It should have cost about £800 to do this, but as we started after we had signed, it cost £5,000."

Their experience of buying abroad prompted the Webbs to set up a course to stop other people from making the same mistakes. "We try to impart as much information about the subject as we can. We emphasise the upside, but also the downside."

Susan Thompson, from Devon, went on one of Mrs Webb's courses before buying a barn in Brittany. "After my husband died three years ago, I was left with a small amount of money," Mrs Thompson says. "I wanted to do something with it, so I decided to buy a property in France." Her

daughter had seen a suitable barn in Brittany.

"I reckoned it would go up in value and probably by more than the interest gained if the money was sitting in a bank." But before Mrs Thompson flew to France to see it, she went on one of Mrs Webb's weekend courses. "The tips were incredibly useful. One of the speakers, an estate agent, had a huge book of different properties and their prices. It gave me an excellent guideline to go on."

The first thing Mrs Thompson discovered was that the French have strict plumbing and electricity regulations. This was vital information, because she was planning to renovate the property. Now she has successfully bought her barn, using a French solicitor. "I knew from the course what to expect in the way of contracts and procedures, so it was very easy to buy," she says. "And because I knew about the regulations, I insisted that the plumbing and electricity work was checked by a French builder."

Deak and Henderson also went on one of Mrs Webb's courses. "It looked at general issues, such as healthcare, pensions and schools, and then brought in experts to discuss the process of buying a house, who to avoid and how to recognise people who are competent, which was very useful."

After the course, the Hendersons went to Gascony for a fortnight and, through what they had learnt, realised it was not the area for them. They eventually bought a property in the Dordogne.

● Lullie and Adrian Webb's weekend courses cost from £150 per person residential to £125 for a non-resident. They are held about once a month and are restricted to a maximum of ten people. The next course is on March 17. Phone 01249 713179 for details.

Ideally situated

Alan Hamilton finds a breathtaking Channel Island retreat

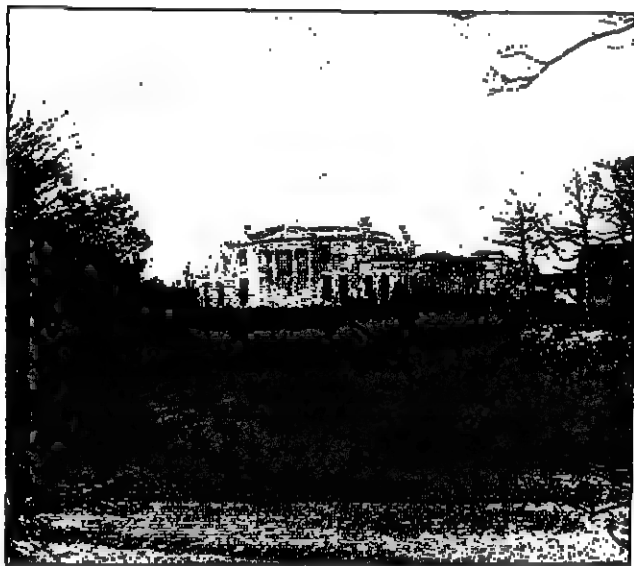
descendant of the Prussian general.

When Raymond Slater, a Manchester property developer and former chairman of Northwest Holst, bought the house ten years ago it was the grounds that appealed. He keeps sheep to save himself the labour of grass cutting, and allows farmers to use parts of the estate for pasture. "Now the family are grown up and gone, we want somewhere more modest," Mr Slater said.

To buy a 55-acre estate on the island of Guernsey is to acquire a significant slice of that tiny Channel Island tax haven. Anyone wishing to own an equivalent proportion of the land area of England would be looking at the entire county of Tyne and Wear.

On an island replete with millionaire retreats, Havilland Hall is arguably the most imposing — a white stuccoed, classically porticoed Regency villa of 1829 commanding views over its own rolling parkland. The £7 million being sought by agents Knight, Frank and Rudley is likely to set a record for a private house sale on the island.

And yes, it is those Havillands. The builder, Lt Col Thomas de Havilland of the Royal Engineers and a Guernseyman, was a direct ancestor of the actress sisters Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine and of the pioneer planemaker Geoffrey de Havilland. The house was bought in the 1930s and lived in for some 40 years by Count Lothair Blucher, a



One in £7 million: Guernsey's Havilland Hall estate

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Set in splendid 1/2 to 1 1/2 acre plots with an adjoining area of woodland, four individually designed grand country houses each with 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms and concrete middle floors for greater sound insulation and flexibility of design. Some with triple garages.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bakers Orchard, Woodburn Green
Just released this picturesque development of 24 cottage-styled 2, 3 and 4 bedroom semi-detached and terraced homes, with a variety of elevations, featuring brick and flint. The houses offer a selection of layouts and some enjoy stunning views across the village green.

Prices from £112,750 Tel 01628 770070

The Croft, Old Beaconsfield
Set in the heart of the old town conservation area, within 200 yards of the local shops and restaurants, the Croft is a select development of mews-style 3 and 4 bedroom cottages and two 5 bedroom family homes.

Prices from £149,000 to £280,000 Tel 01494 677777

Beechfield Lodge, Beaconsfield
A single, 5 bedroom detached home situated in an attractive cul-de-sac within close proximity of the town centre. Offering 4 reception rooms, 3 bath/shower rooms and a double garage.

Price £435,000 Tel 01494 677777

Maplewood Gardens, Beaconsfield
Situated off a tree-lined avenue, a mile and a half from shops and the BR station to Marylebone. Six substantial, detached family homes, offering 5 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms and 3 bathrooms.

Prices from £449,000 to £460,000 Tel 01494 677777

Berkeley HOMES

Report identifies host of problems at Crystal Palace

We're pigging out with Clive and Jonathan

In East Berlin, a man walks into a bar, orders the "special", and finds on his plate a Vesuvius of food including an undigested section of pig's leg, a raw pink hue, looking as if it could hop to the vertical at any moment and dance a pirouette on the table. This unlovely but popular dish is the "Eisbein" and alas, it comes without instructions.

Clive James, in last night's *Postcard from Berlin* (BBC1) gamely stuck his nose under the open skin of the Eisbein and sniffed at the pink wobbly flesh, which shows he is a better man than I am. "It gave off the aroma of a losing football team's laundry basket," he said. "But the actual taste... didn't live up to the smell." He left most of the foot behind. Perhaps he remembered the warning he'd heard - that East Berliners eat so much Eisbein they resemble it. Nobody wants to look like a trotter, not even in the

interests of a peaktime laugh.

But are you what you eat? That was the big question last night, with the aggressively rotund Jonathan Meades on Channel 4 metaphorically jabbing a meaty pig's foot into the faces of vegetarians and yelling, "What's your problem?" This was *JAcuse* - an arts slot originally conceived for cultural iconoclasts, but now apparently turning into an up-market *Video Box* Meades was consumed with contempt for the veggie thought police: these were people, he implied, who on a weekend break to Berlin would get more aerated over the pork butchers than the monuments to the Holocaust. He hates them for making dreary food (he spat it out hilariously); he hates them for their self-righteous denial; but most of all he hates them for gaining ground.

Meades sat amid a bacchanalian heap of fruit and veg worthy of

Peter Greenaway, and you half expected a roasted human body (Clive James, possibly) to be brought to him on an enormous platter. "For God's sake lighten up!" he would snort, as he started to snuffle under the skin. Was his diet doing him good? Well, let's just say the British Heart Foundation will have received a mysterious boost in donations overnight. Auberon Waugh made a powerful case for not desiring an extreme long life, in any case. When you look at the long life currently on offer, he said, the last ten years consists in lying on racks and being turned occasionally, "like wet hay".

This all made you wonder what had been fed to Ahmed, the little boy featured in *The Knowledge* (BBC2). Fish give you brains, apparently; although this benevolent process has never been clear to me. The first

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

programme was sub-titled "Too Clever By Half", and for once, the title was not a gimmick. If Ahmed, at six and a half, had an IQ of 100, he'd be fine and dandy. But his score is 150, and he is therefore too clever by half, literally.

His mother teaches him at home in a south London tower block; he is a nice child who enjoys learning. But his mother is reaching her limit and there's nowhere for

Ahmed to go. This interesting programme was therefore not a celebration of cleverness: Ahmed's lovely intellect was more like an Einstein on a plate once you've got it, what can you do with it?

Asked a mathematical problem about men digging holes, Ahmed's eyes lit up. "This is inverse proportion, isn't it?" he said, and the educational assessor clapped his hands with pleasure. At the Science Museum with his mother, Ahmed watched a ping-pong ball swirl down a funnel, representing a black hole. "It gets quicker as it gets nearer!" he exclaimed. "This is interesting."

The usual idea of the Infant Phenomenon in big glasses held together with sticking plaster was swept aside. Ahmed was a sweet, polite, well-adjusted child - and this, ironically, was the problem. Under the provisions of the 1993 Education Act, a child who is gifted is not automatically includ-

ed under "special needs". Only if he is also emotionally disturbed will he get some help - an official nonsense which demonstrates the limits of too-clever cleverness rather well.

Back at Clive James, the innocent abroad just can't help showing his metropolitan sophistication, despite the funny hats and goofy outfits he gamely adopts; despite the stunt car last night (a rusting Trabant), which he drove around in a farcical, kangaroo manner, its thick, white exhaust plume "visible from space". No, the true nature of the man insists on showing through; and at a bohemian party in Berlin, he peeled himself from an eye-glazing conversation by saying brightly, "Hey, let's talk again a little bit later." (Only very important people learn to speak like that.)

Lastly, BBC1's tribute to Larry

Grayson was entitled *Shut That Door* - again the name seemed obvious, and again it held rather more meaning. Grayson famously made his name late in life, and the great delight of this posthumous compilation was watching him enjoy it. A Kenneth Tynan crossed with the Mad Hatter, he tipped his sly profile endlessly, nose-up in the *Generation Game* lights, soaking the adoration.

Recently a mean critic denied Kenneth Williams the accolade "national treasure", on the grounds that in Japan a national treasure is a genius, not a jumped-up laughs-man with an inadequate personal life. Well, nuts to that. Our dead comics deserve every bouquet they can get. "He's anybody's for a doughnut," said the magnificent Grayson, on stage in *The Good Old Days*, glancing at the stalls. "You suffer with it, don't you? I can tell by the way you're sitting."

BBC1

- 8.00 Business Breakfast (14750)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (95337798)
- 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (5488069)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7865753) 10.05 EastEnders - The Early Days (r) (Ceefax) (8873953) 10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (s) (7125717)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (1631408) 12.05 Pebble Mill (s) (7490212) 12.55 Regional News and weather (15300427)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (19156) 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (77777801)
- 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly asks the general knowledge questions (s) (7788717) 2.15 Allas Smith - and Jones. Light-hearted western adventures starring Patsy and Ben Murphy (s) (8160717)
- 3.05 Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave. Three-course dinner from a microwave (s) (5634683) 3.20 Brilliant Gardens. A visit to Glasgow Botanic Gardens (8074953)
- 3.30 Barney Bear Double-Bill (2148243) 3.45 Sisk as a Parrot (s) (2143798) 4.00 Jeopardy. Kathy Burke with the story of the Twits (s) (4458069) 4.10 Potsworth and Co (s) (6405427) 4.35 The Really Wild Show. Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Howie Watkins travel to the Galapagos Islands. (Ceefax) (s) (7788311)
- 5.00 Newsround (2464585) 5.05 The Stz. Drama serial about the pupils of a school of dance and drama. (Ceefax) (s) (626243)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (940494). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (595)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (175). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
- 7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel surprises another unsuspecting worthy. (Ceefax) (s) (7892)
- 7.30 Here and Now. Current affairs magazine (359)



Esther Rantzen with golden deer (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Hearts of Gold. (Ceefax) (s) (839334)
- 8.50 Points of View. (Ceefax) (s) (822311)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (6175)
- 9.30 Harry. Series about a Dartington news agency starring Michael Elphick as an investigative reporter. (Ceefax) (s) (591155)
- 10.20 Sportnight presented by Desmond Lynam. The first-up includes highlights of tonight's FA Caring Premiership match between Blackburn Rovers and Arsenal and a preview of this weekend's WBO World Heavyweight championship bout between Herbie Hide and Riddick Bowe (s) (805427)
- 12.00 The Stand Up Show. Comedy introduced by Barry Cryer (s) (77199)
- 12.30am FILM: Murder On Duty (1990) starring William Devane and Patrick Duffy. A thriller about a killer who uses state-of-the-art surveillance equipment to choose his next victim. Directed by Alan Metzger. (Ceefax) (877373) 2.05 Weather (758915)

BBC2

- 8.20 Open University: Cognitive Development (7347446) 8.45 Language and Literature (2193330) 7.10 Humanism and Painting (5483578) 7.35 Humanity and the Scaffold (5086801) 8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (8750311) 8.15 Westminster On-Line (s) (4248934)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: Quizzes Minutes (5526576) 9.15 Focus (7162350) 9.25 Study Ireland (5522663) 9.45 Storyline (5604137) 10.00 Playdays (881359) 10.25 Homes Across Europe (1921243) 10.40 Around Scotland (4146779). Northern Ireland: Ulster in Focus 11.00 Cats' Eyes (6579779) 11.15 Ghostwriter (159798) 11.45 Developing World (5373968) 12.10 Geography Programme (5143666) 12.30 Working Lunch (51972) 1.00 German Collection (5708137) 1.25 Zoo Zag (8770779) 1.45 You and Me (2536347) 2.00 Greysaurus Gang (5891242) 2.05 Spider (58911798)
- 2.10 Songs of Praise (r). (Ceefax) (s) (9072755) 2.45 Treasures of the Trust. The Kingston Lacy estate in Dorset and Powys castle in Wales (r) (8470048)
- 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (4386243) 3.50 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8055137) 4.00 Today's the Day (s) (208) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (972)
- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (s) (3141738)
- 5.40 World Figure Skating Championships from the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (522798)
- 6.15 Star Trek - The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventure. (Ceefax) (s) (940205)
- 7.00 The World at War. (Ceefax) (171408)
- 7.50 World Figure Skating Championships (73224)



Secrets of the dolphin revealed (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Magic Animals. A look at dolphins. (Ceefax) (s) (4972)
- 8.30 Choice. Modern Times: Harley Street. (Ceefax) (s) (106363)
- 9.20 World Figure Skating Championships introduced by Sue Barker (5374501)
- 10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (155798)
- 11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (148214) 11.55 Weather (473155)
- 12.00 Forecasting the Economy (4557557)
- 12.25am The Enlightenment: Reason and Progress (331977) 12.50 The Record. The day in Parliament (s) (3018806). Ends at 1.15 2.00-3.40 Night School: Modern Languages (538170)
- 4.00-4.15 BBC Select: Benefits Agency Today (13407354)

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Harley Street patient Bonnie Bates (BBC2, 8.30pm)

Modern Times: Harley Street 8.30pm Charles Stewart and Malcolm Hirst, the team responsible for a memorable series about Lewisham council, turn their attention to a bastion of private medicine. It is easy to condemn a system in which wealthy women are prepared to pay £4,500 for a facelift and specialists add lashings of jam to their National Health Service bread and butter. But Stewart and Hirst are not in the business of making judgments. They present the evidence and leave the opinions to us. At the heart of their film is a contentious new treatment for breast cancer known as high-dose chemotherapy. It is both hideously expensive (£50,000) and unproven. But with the disease affecting one British woman in 11, there is no shortage of takers.

Dispatches Channel 4, 9.00pm

The largest single ship to be lost in British maritime history was the *Derbyshire*, a bulk carrier which sank 14 years ago in the South China Seas. All 44 crew members died. The official report suggested that the ship had been "overwhelmed by the forces of nature" during a typhoon. But families of the victims, and maritime safety experts, have long campaigned for a new inquiry. They blame the tragedy on design flaws and claim that the discovery of part of the wreck of the ship has strengthened their case. The ITN team of Rob White and Rory MacLean has been following the story for four years. Their film reveals that doubts about the *Derbyshire*'s design go back to the 1970s when it and similar ships were being built on Teesside.

Hearts of Gold BBC1, 8.00pm

Prepare to welcome more unsung heroes who, thanks to Esther Rantzen, are unsung no longer. As usual the recipients of the *Hearts of Gold* award are beyond criticism. There is a man who has given generations of rootless south London youngsters a purpose by training them as sea cadets. We salute a nurse who has spent three years among Romania's young Aids victims. Applause is rightly in order for a seven-year-old who helped to save her mother's life. But the show's format, which involves luring these brave and worthy people into the studio under false pretences and in showbusiness schmalz, is something else. Not for nothing are Rantzen's latest cohorts a gameshow host, Carol Smilie, and a comic, Mickey Hutton.

The World At War: Remember BBC2, 7.00pm

Jeremy Isaacs decided to end his vast television history of the Second World War by leaving aside the great battles and the decisive engagements and evoking the experience of conflict through ordinary fighting men. It made a moving documentary more than 20 years ago and it still does. As we brace ourselves for an avalanche of end-of-war commemorations in the approach to VE-Day, it will be worth checking whether any of them come close to this simple, affecting film. Memories of the fear, the fun and the camaraderie of battle are intercut with images of war's lasting impact. In the Armistice Day service at the Cenotaph, the annual services reunions and the rows of gravestones in war cemeteries. Peter Waymark

CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (7832605)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (s) (3274137) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8878408)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place. John Stapleton presides over a studio audience as they discuss a topical issue (s) (7903088)
- 10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (2650359) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1620392)
- 12.30 ITN News (Teletext) and weather (2109175)
- 12.55 Coronation Street (r). (Teletext) (2184886) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (57081682)
- 1.55 Carlton Woman (s) (36861175) 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (74738165) 2.50 Blue Heelers. A tragic accident occurs during the funeral of a man killed in a car crash (7243830)
- 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8085069) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8077040)
- 3.30 Alphabet Castle (r) (s) (2158350) 3.40 Wizards (r) (s) (8053779) 3.50 A Pup Named Scooby Doo (r) (838345) 4.15 Animaniacs (Teletext) (s) (6498866) 4.40 The Tomorrow People (Teletext) (502935)
- 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (6254682)
- 5.40 ITN After Evening News (Teletext) and weather (327408)
- 5.55 Your Show. Members of the public air their views (897750)
- 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (663)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (243)
- 7.00 Wish You Were Here... Judith Chalmers attends the 40th Galway International Oyster Festival; John Carter reports from Innsbruck, the cultural capital of the Austrian Tyrol; and Martin Roberts travels to Australia, starting in Sydney before exploring Brisbane (Teletext) (s) (2750)



Johnny Briggs and Amanda Barrie (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street. Alms surprises Mike with a new purchase (Teletext) (427)
- 8.00 The Match - Live: Coca-Cola Cup Semi-Final. Coverage of the match between Crystal Palace and Liverpool (4601) NB: In the event of extra time/penalties subsequent programmes may run late
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (17663)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (803953)
- 10.40 FILM: Disorganised Crime (1988) starring Hoyt Axton and Corbin Bernsen. A criminal contacts four other crooks to execute the perfect heist, but he is arrested, leaving the others to fend for themselves. Directed by Jim Kouss (1281531)
- 12.00am Alien Nation (s) (1126354)
- 1.35 Hollywood Report (s) (2222557)
- 2.00 The Best with Gary Crowley (s) (8887712)
- 3.00 The Album Show featuring Bruce Springsteen (s) (794422)
- 4.05 Shant (2303880)
- 4.55 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (7880335)
- 5.50 ITN Morning News (53956). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Sandokan (r) (2104448)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (70309)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (27040)
- 9.30 Schools: Living and Growing (5572408) 9.48 Talk. Write and Read 10.02 Stages Two Science (5595359) 10.18 The Jacobites (6138243) 10.40 Living with Technology (6117750) 10.55 Film and Video Showcase (5384866) 11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica (6336344) 11.15 The Music Show (6887798) 11.30 Rai-a-Tai-Tai (4102175) 11.48 First Edition (4190303)
- 12.00 House To House (14576)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is Blair Underwood (21243) 1.30 Take 5 featuring Master Man, Tales From The Wizard, Natalie, Ivor the Engine and Juggy Bear (56311)
- 2.00 FILM: The Pharmacist (1933, b/w). W.C. Fields stars in this short about a small-town chemist with a frightful family. Directed by Arthur Ripley (74717663)
- 2.25 FILM: FOR: The Last Year (1980). The second and final part of the biopic of the last year in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's life. Starring Jason Robards. Directed by Anthony Page. (Teletext) (626222)
- 4.00 Journeyman. Gave Gurnall visits Shalesbury in Dorset (s) (156)
- 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (840)
- 5.00 Ricki Lake. The guests are a young man and his shy girlfriend who are married before the show is over. (Teletext) (s) (6199885)
- 5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (810601)
- 6.00 All American Girl. Sit-com. (Teletext) (s) (205)
- 6.30 Boy Meets World (Teletext) (s) (885)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (166576)
- 7.50 The Slot (538392)
- 8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (9040)



Gaby Roslin presents travel diaries (8.30pm)

- 8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Reports from Turkey, a caravanning holiday and a timeshare near Marbella. (Teletext) (s) (8175)
- 9.00 Choice. Dispatches. (Teletext) (317040)
- 9.45 Out Of Order. Trapped in the lift this week are Nasta Wynn Williams, the Prime Minister's biographer, and Nina Myskova who discusses whether John Major is easy or just an anonymous man in a suit. (Teletext) (s) (80872)
- 10.00 ER. American hospital drama series. (Teletext) (s) (102446)
- 10.55 The Best Of The Tube. Includes performances by Wet Wet Wet and Echo and the Bunnymen (482886)
- 11.30 MovieWatch (r) (s) (70779)
- 12.00 LA Live. Courtroom drama series (218189)
- 12.55am Omnibus. A commuter tries to get off a train that is not stopping at his station (523047)
- 1.05 Beyond El Rocco. The second of two programmes about Australia's jazz scene (r) (s) (841248)
- 2.10 FILM: Cyrano (1932, b/w) starring Ronald Colman as a middle-aged lawyer whose extra-marital affair ends in disaster. Directed by King Vidor (1935538). Ends at 3.25

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA** As London except 1.55 A Country Practice (7772155) 2.30 Gardening Time (7720137) 2.50-3.20 Blockbusters (702533) 3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (825482) 6.25-7.00 Anglia Weather (s) (786575) 7.00-7.30 News (786575) 7.30-7.50 The Tube (786575) 7.50-8.00 The Tube (786575) 8.00-8.30 The Tube (786575) 8.30-8.50 The Tube (786575) 8.50-9.00 The Tube (786575) 9.00-9.30 The Tube (786575) 9.30-9.50 The Tube (786575) 9.50-10.00 The Tube (786575) 10.00-10.30 The Tube (786575) 10.30-10.50 The Tube (786575) 10.50-11.00 The Tube (786575) 11.00-11.30 The Tube (786575) 11.30-11.50 The Tube (786575) 11.50-12.00 The Tube (786575) 12.00-12.30 The Tube (786575) 12.30-12.50 The Tube (786575) 12.50-1.00 The Tube (786575) 1.00-1.30 The Tube (786575) 1.30-1.50 The Tube (786575) 1.50-2.00 The Tube (786575) 2.00-2.30 The Tube (786575) 2.30-2.50 The Tube (786575) 2.50-3.00 The Tube (786575) 3.00-3.30 The Tube (786575) 3.30-3.50 The Tube (786575) 3.50-4.00 The Tube (786575) 4.00-4.30 The Tube (786575) 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WHY THE FUTURE
LOOKS BLEAK FOR
CRYSTAL PALACE

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8 1995

MAGUIRE STILL HUNGRY
FOR SUCCESS AS
CHELTENHAM LOOMS

Arsenal pledge full cooperation

Graham facing FA charge of misconduct

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE legal clouds over football will not lift. George Graham is to get his way or have his bluff called by the Football Association. Two weeks ago, when Arsenal dismissed him after hearing full disclosure from the Premier League of the way he received £425,000 from the signings of Pal Lydersen and John Jensen, Graham insisted: "I appeal to all right-minded lovers of the great game of football to press for a full and open inquiry by the FA."

Appeal granted. The FA yesterday promised such an investigation and at the same time charged Graham with "misconduct in relation to payments allegedly received". The former Arsenal manager has 21 days to prepare his defence, 21 days in which the threat from abroad, by Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the game's European governing body, will bite into his confidence.

"If it's proven that a manager has taken money from a transfer," Johansson said, "he must be banned for life, worldwide." Johansson tends to speak first and engage logic later. However, there are many, inside and outside the marble halls of Highbury, who share his sentiment, and many more, one assumes, who feel it is Graham's right to be heard publicly.

Remember that he said the monies were "an unsolicited gift". Remember that he later paid Arsenal the full £425,000, plus interest, even though it was never alleged that the windfall was the property of Arsenal in the first place. There are questions there that will be intriguing when the FA investigates and the Arsenal managing director, Ken Friar, last night promised full co-operation by the club.

So a season that began under the wig and gown of Tottenham Hotspur's joust

with the FA will almost certainly end with more legal arguments. The FA has been bruised, to put it mildly, in its attempts throughout the season to uphold its authority. Even the Premier League, whose investigations into "bungs" has been bedevilled at every twist and turn by legal representatives, has unfinished business.

After 100 years in which football proudly called itself the national game, it now abounds with shame. Apart from the Graham affair, there is the Grobbelaar case, which is still in the hands of the Hampshire police. There are



Graham charged

also scheduled appearances in magistrates' courts. Dennis Wise, the captain of Chelsea, will be sentenced on Monday after his conviction for assault of London taxi driver. Then, on March 23, not only Eric Cantona, but also Paul Ince face the court in Croydon. Cantona for his now infamous two-footed kick, and Ince for an alleged assault on another spectator that same night at Selhurst Park.

Alas, the rancour does not end there. The former England manager, Graham Taylor, now in charge of Wolverhampton Wanderers,

and the former Liverpool manager, Graeme Souness, are in various stages of their ripples to newspaper insinuations that they, too, have profited from transfer imports.

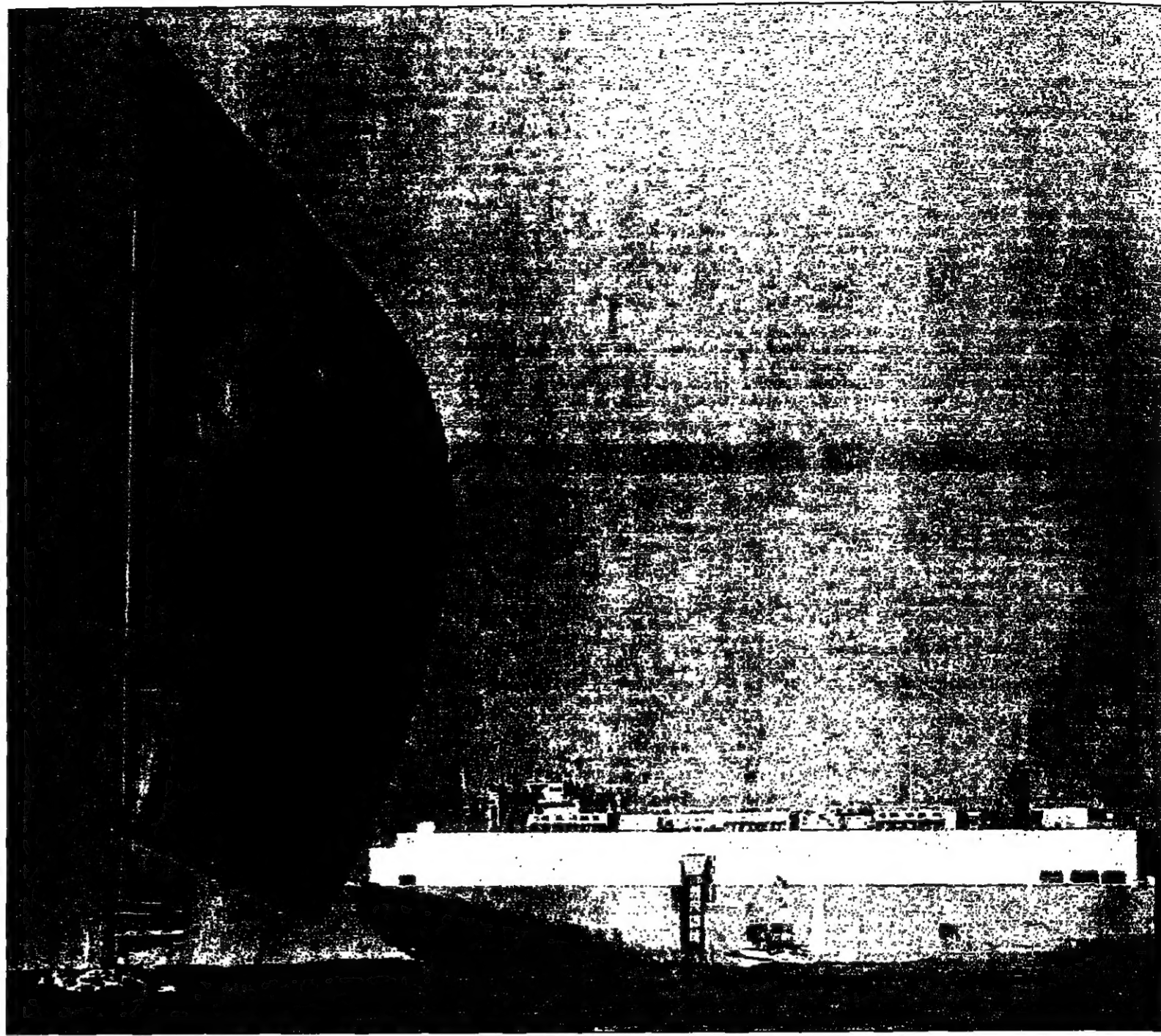
The game reels from it all. How on earth can an agent like Rune Hauge trample all over British football, acquire a Fifa licence professing him to be the type of adviser clubs and players should seek. Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, is drafting new rules, rules that would put a stop to the dastardly games played on and around the fringes of this "great game". He has the full approval of all 22 club chairmen in the FA Carling Premiership.

As he works away, one day wearing the quasi-wig of a judge in what George Graham called "the kangaroo court", the next trying to be the £140,000-a-year administrator, some gentlemen from a far-off land arrive.

A senator and a detective from the Australian fraud squad are in Britain to explore the transfer that brought the goalkeeper, Frank Talia, to Blackburn Rovers from Sunshine George Cross in August 1992. More impropriety is suggested and, of course, refused in Lancashire.

What can be done about football? Terry Venables, the England coach, suggested that a little Singapore-style justice would not go amiss to for the thugs in the stands at Dublin. Well, Singapore is also in the mire. When, yesterday, a trial began concerning the fixing of matches in Malaysia, a bookmaker, Rajendran Kurusamy, admitted: "I did fix matches. I received between 60,000 Singapore dollars (approximately £28,000) and 500,000 Singapore dollars in bets per match." He, and others implicated in the trial, face jail sentences of five years. British justice slowly moves in on miscreants here.

Ruddock recalled, page 44



France 3 sails unopposed on Monday in the America's Cup challenger series. She was to have raced oneAustralia. Photograph: Blake Sel

Yacht's sinking attracts flimsy theories

HOW could a new yacht, worth £2 million and with just ten races on the clock, fold up like cardboard and sink within three minutes? The shockwaves from the demise of John Bertrand's America's Cup challenger, *oneAustralia*, in 1,200 feet of water off Point Loma on Sunday reverberated yesterday.

In Australia, the boat-builder, John McConaghy, whose Sydney-based company built *oneAustralia* and Syd Fischer's rival challenger, *Sydney 95*, said yesterday: "The boats have been designed to the point where it is dangerous all the time. Given those conditions, I would expect the boat to be under some pressure. These boats

are light and flimsy and you expect things to be broken now and then, but you plan them to be minor—the sort of stuff that can be patched up back ashore. Certainly you do not expect anything as catastrophic as this."

Shortly before the boat folded, the drive to the port primary winch used to sheet in the genoa broke and the crew led the line to another winch ten feet aft normally used to tension the running back stays supporting the mast. This produced a four-ton load on the back of the boat, and analysis of the videotape footage taken as *oneAustralia* broke up has led some designers to believe that the deck failed under

Barry Pickthall looks at reasons for the catastrophic end of the America's Cup racer

compression from the increased load.

"Someone goofed," David Pedrick, who designed Dennis Conner's defence challenger, *Stars & Stripes*, said. "Obviously, they went too light in their design engineering. They cut it too close."

Peter Morris, the chief executive of *oneAustralia*, was less convinced. "We will never know what happened. These boats are like Formula One

cars. You are testing the outer sides of the envelope. Sometimes things happen that can never be explained."

Morris did not discount Pedrick's theory, but said: "It is only a theory. If you had four experts in a room, you'd finish up with five theories, only one of which they would all share. We could have hit something. There isn't a best guess, but there was some sort of structural failure."

Bertrand decided yesterday not to try to salvage the boat, which would have hit the seabed at around 12 knots. "At that speed there would not be much left of the boat, and the mast would almost certainly have broken," one crewman said.

Instead, the team concentrated on getting its other boat into trim for yesterday's match against *Sydney 95*, having given a walkover to *France 3* on Monday while remeasurement took place.

"We have no structural concerns about the old boat, which has been sailed for almost a year in much worse conditions off the Queensland coast," Morris said. "The two boats were constructed differently, and we will now be fitting the latest underwater appendage designs to the old boat."

The helmsman, Rob Davis, is confident the team can regain its competitiveness.

Positions, page 44

Committee sacks Pakistan captain

By SIMON WILDE

A SECRET telephone call a month ago, alerting a Sydney journalist to bribes allegedly offered to Australian Test cricketers, set in train events which led to the dismissal yesterday of Salim Malik and Intikhab Alam as captain and manager of the Pakistan team. The *ad hoc* committee in charge of the game in Pakistan, chaired by Javed Burki, interviewed both men during an eight-hour meeting in Lahore to discuss information passed to it from the Australian Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council. Salim, 31, who had been captain for just over a year, left the meeting carrying an envelope.

The board issued a statement in which it made it clear the ball was now in Salim's court. It said that Salim had

been suspended from playing for Pakistan or any first-class team in the country and given seven days in which to reply to the charges and show why disciplinary action should not be taken against him. Salim said yesterday he would consult his legal adviser.

Intikhab, 53, had acted as Pakistan manager on a regular basis since 1988 and had said he would resign if the allegations were shown to have foundation. The committee said yesterday that a new captain and manager would be appointed for Pakistan's next engagement, the Asia Cup in Sharjah starting on April 5.

Salim and Intikhab are unlikely to be the last casualties of the affair. Statements from Australian players are believed to level charges against another Pakistan player and now that action has

been taken against Salim suspicions may grow that he will be identified as Ijaz Ahmed, Salim's brother-in-law. The committee confirmed yesterday that it is seeking explanations from "other players".

Rashid Latif and Basit Ali face bans of three years and upwards for what the committee described as a serious breach of their contracts by leaving Pakistan's tour of Zimbabwe a fortnight ago without permission, an act that had "tarnished" the image of the country.

Both Rashid, 26, who had been vice-captain to Salim, and Basit, 24, have announced their retirements from the international game but in Pakistan cricket such decisions are rarely irrevocable.

Once the bloodletting has ended, Pakistan will have little time to gather its forces before defending the World Cup ear-

ly next year. The tournament is scheduled to be staged on the Asian sub-continent.

Candidates for the captaincy will include Javed Miandad, who is keen to return to the Pakistan team and who had a meeting with Javed Burki three days ago. However, both his leadership and that of another contender, Wasim Akram, Salim's predecessor, led to divisions within the team and a compromise choice such as Ramiz Raja, 32, who last played Test cricket two years ago, may be sought.

Majid Khan is considered a likely successor to Salim, an option which would result in three of the most influential voices in Pakistan cricket—the others being those of Javed Burki and Imran Khan—belonging to the same extended Lahore family.

Players benefit, page 43

Mansell squeezed out of early contention

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NIGEL MANSELL and Mika Hakkinen discovered yesterday that the cockpit of their new McLaren Formula One car was too small. It is feared that the design error may have jeopardised the team's championship prospects in the coming season.

Mansell, who joined McLaren after failing to team up with Damon Hill at Williams, was travelling to Britain yesterday to experiment with new cockpit lay-outs at the McLaren team's Woking headquarters today.

He refused to talk to reporters in Estoril, Portugal, where McLaren have struggled by more than two seconds to match the pace-setting Williams team in testing, but his team-mate, Hakkinen, confirmed their problems.

"Driving it is like running the London Marathon in a pair of running shoes which are too small," Hakkinen said.

"At the start line you are thinking

about the race in front of you and how much it is going to hurt. You've got the guts to do everything you need to finish the race but you know it will hurt your ability to race at the maximum pace. There is a lot of pain. It is the same thing for the runner as it is for us."

He said Mansell's stature made the problem more acute for him because of his broad shoulders and heavy build. "I know he has problems and he has suffered from bruising to his hands and arms. If it is bad for me, it is much worse for him," Hakkinen said.

A McLaren spokesman, who wished to remain anonymous, did not believe it was a serious problem.

The car was launched two weeks ago at the Science Museum in London and was hailed as one of the most revolutionary designs in Formula One history.

At the time, Mansell said: "If it goes as quick as it looks, then everybody had better watch out. I am raring to go and I am very hungry."

But in testing this week the McLaren has been unable to match the pace of its Formula One rivals.

While Williams and Jordan have set new testing records, Mansell has been left behind at the tail of the field. On Monday, only Pedro Diniz, the Brazilian, in the new Forti Corse was slower than the Briton.

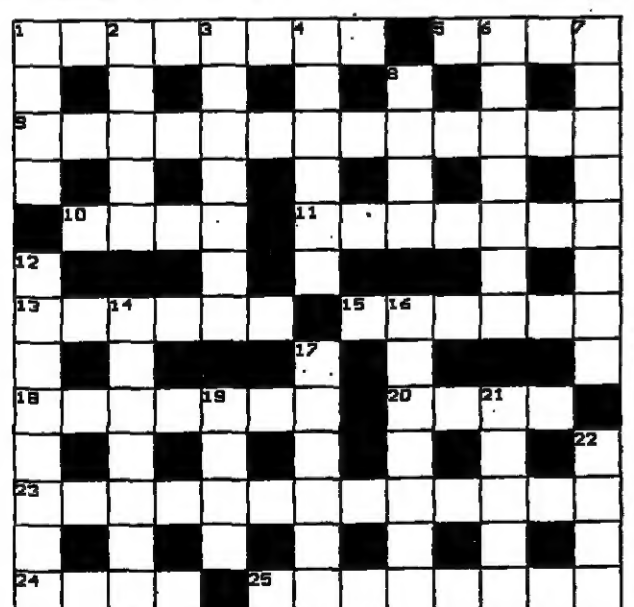
Hill and his team-mate David Coulthard set the best times yesterday, leaving the world champion, Michael Schumacher, trailing.

Hill's best lap was clocked at 1min 22.25sec, 500ths of a second faster than his Scottish partner.

Rubens Barrichello, of Brazil, was a surprising third-fastest in the Jordan 1min 22.35sec, ahead of Schumacher in 1min 22.35sec.

Schumacher's Benetton team-mate, the British driver, Johnny Herbert, was unhurt after spinning off a bend and hitting the safety barriers with the back of his car.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 414

ACROSS

- 1 Enormous beast (Job) (8)
- 5 In the same (referenced) book (4)
- 9 Large sum of money (1,5,7)
- 10 Herring measure (4)
- 11 Carry out (7)
- 13 Powerful (6)
- 15 Sound of leaves in wind (6)
- 18 Affect: cause to participate (7)
- 20 (Unnecessary) agitation (4)
- 23 Overlook (misdeemeanour) (4,1,5,3)
- 24 Cut the harvest (4)
- 25 Characterlessness (8)

DOWN

- 1 Heebaw; its vicar a trimmer (4)
- 2 Greek poet; pigeon: weak referee (5)
- 3 Black skin pigment (7)
- 4 Little mound (6)
- 6 Aroma; bunch of flowers (7)
- 7 Intensified (8)
- 8 Exhort (4)
- 12 Tiny wood fragment (8)
- 14 Greek restaurant (7)
- 16 Failing to amuse (7)
- 17 Wine store (6)
- 19 Burden; heap on (4)
- 21 Kid (glove) (5)
- 22 Falcon strap (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 413

ACROSS: 5 Norman French 8 Shower 9 Latent 10 Quad 12 Janitor 14 Pierced 15 Verb 17 Zither 18 Racial 20 Henry IV Part I
DOWN: 1 On the qui vive 2 Brow 3 Offload 4 Bestride 6 Acre 7 Can you beat it? 11 Ayrshire 13 Recruit 16 Drop 19 Cure

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